伊藤潤二の猫日記
ITO JUNJI'S CAT DIARY

よん&むー

伊藤潤二　profile

1963年 岐阜県生まれ。ホラー漫画家。
1987年 月刊「ハロウィン」にて『だexpo』、
前衛と商科出て上。
1990年より漫画執筆に専念。
代表作「富江」「K.」シリーズ「死びとの恋わずらい」「うずまき」など多数。

伊藤潤二

伊藤潤二の猫日記

よん&むー

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日本のホラー漫画界を代表する
作家・伊藤潤二のホラー漫画家。
大嫌だった、婚約者人子の希望で猫をかうことに。
外国種の仔猫・むーと、
呪い顔の甘えん坊猫・よん。
2の思いとは裏腹に、猫はにまったくなつかない。——ガンバレ、2!

恐怖と笑いは紙一重。
ホラー漫画家のお笑い猫マンガ!!!

伊藤潤二の猫日記
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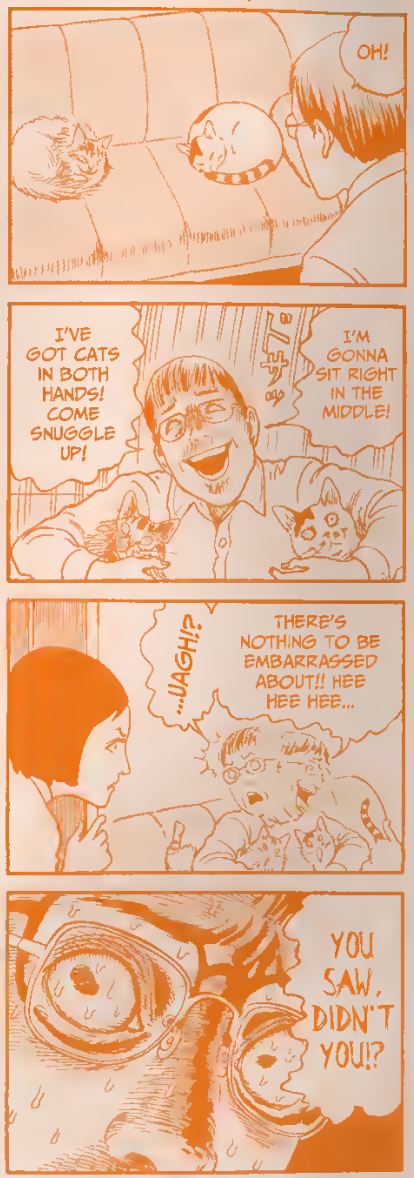
Found Nya ♥


OH!
I'VE GOT CATS IN BOTH HANDS! COME SNUGGLE UP!
I'M GONNA SIT RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE!
...UAGH!?
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT!! HEE HEE HEE...
YOU SAW, DIDN'T YOU!?

伊藤潤二の猫日記
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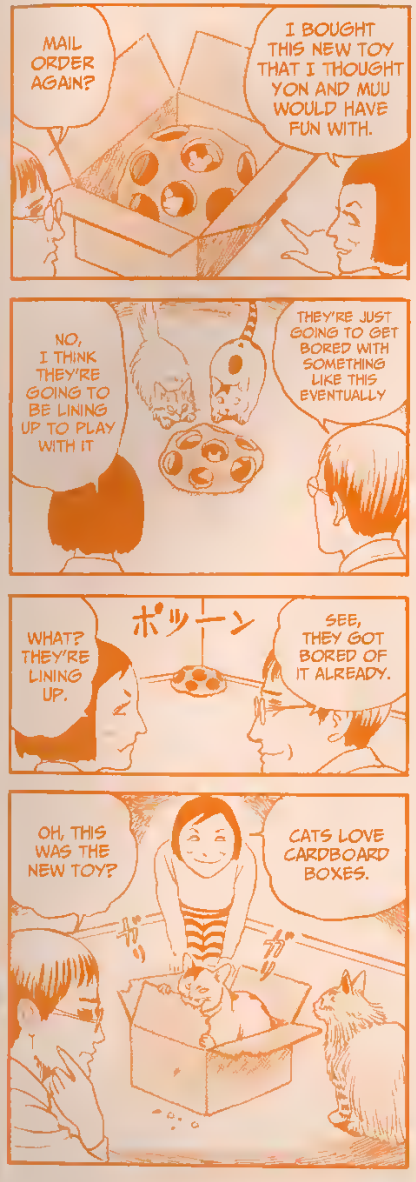
伊藤潤二

Love Love Love It ♥


MAIL ORDER AGAIN?
I BOUGHT THIS NEW TOY THAT I THOUGHT YON AND MUU WOULD HAVE FUN WITH.
NO, I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO BE LINING UP TO PLAY WITH IT
THEY'RE JUST GOING TO GET BORED WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS EVENTUALLY
WHAT? THEY'RE LINING UP.
ポツーン
SEE, THEY GOT BORED OF IT ALREADY.
OH, THIS WAS THE NEW TOY?
CATS LOVE CARDBOARD BOXES.

伊藤潤二の猫日記

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Scanning & Typesetting: GGpX
Translation: Laika
Editing: Dille
Quality Check: xyz85-mvb9
www.illuminati-manga.com
#illuminati-manga@irc.irchighway.net

伊藤潤二の猫日記

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もくじ

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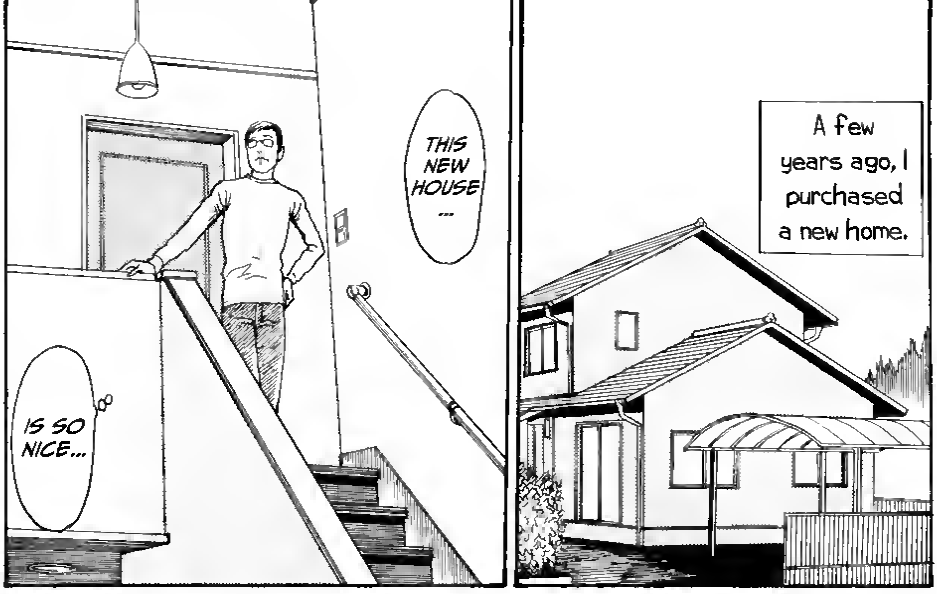
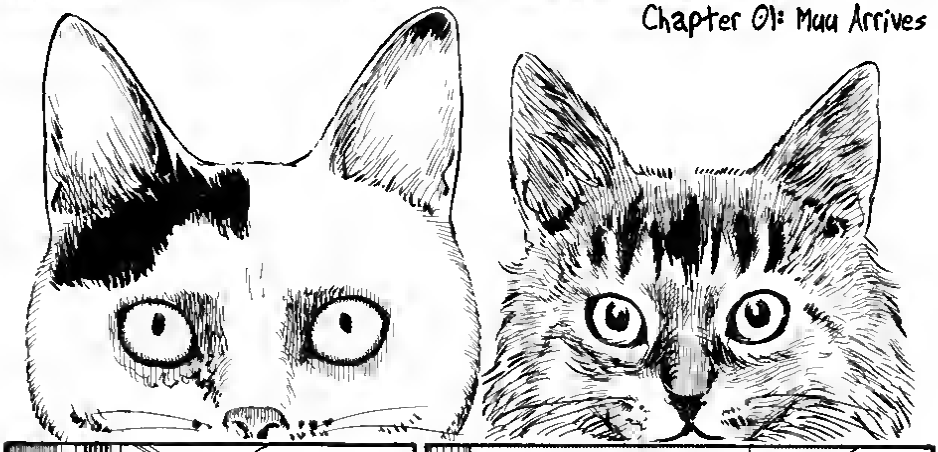
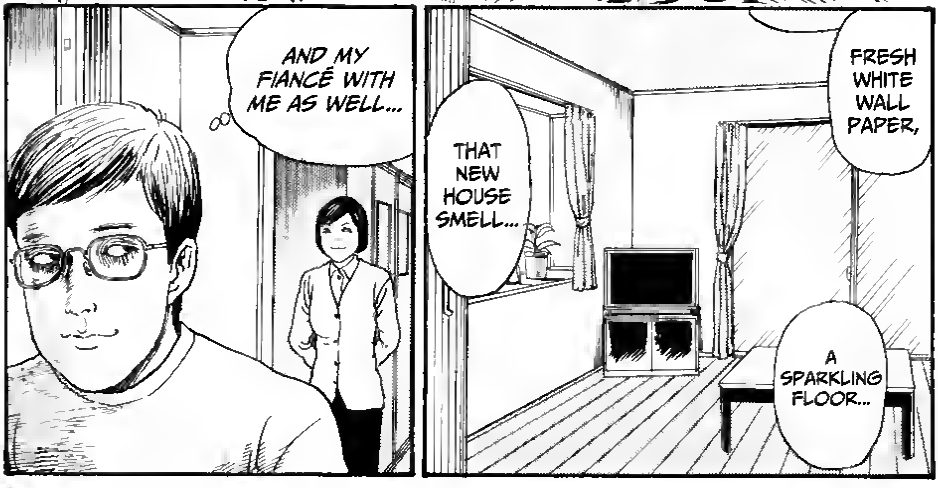


Chapter 01: Muu Arrives

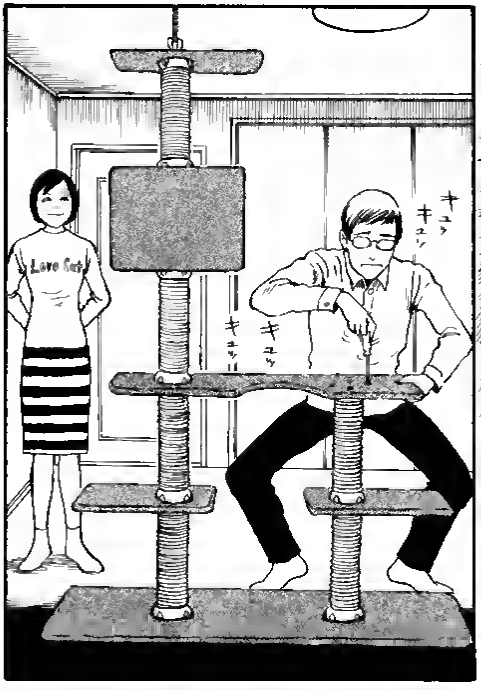




J-KUN.
YES, A-KO...?
J-KUN, ARE YOU A DOG PERSON?
OR A CAT PERSON?
WHAT? WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME ALL OF A SUDDEN...? HEHEHEH, WELL, IF I HAD TO PICK...
I GUESS I'M A HAMSTER PERSON..
fufufufu
I LIKE DOGS, BUT...
I'M MORE OF A CAT PERSON.
LALALA.
...
..I'M ACTUALLY MORE OF A DOG PERSON.
DOGS ARE MAN'S BEST FRIEND... THEY'RE SO BRAVE AND LOYAL AND JUST GET ME SO MISTY EYED...

WHAT?
WHY DON'T YOU SET IT UP?
LOOK, J-KUN, THE CAT TOWER HAS ARRIVED.
Love Cat
DELIVERY!
YON..
...
WHY ARE YOU ASKING SUCH A SILLY QUESTION? I TOLD YOU I WAS GONNA BRING "YON" HERE FROM MY HOME BACK IN CHIBA, DIDN'T I?
Love Cat
WHY'D YOU BUY SOME-THING LIKE THAT?
CAT... CAT TOWER?
"YON" WAS THERE...
...YON... THAT'S RIGHT. SOME MONTHS AGO, WHEN I WENT TO VISIT A-KO'S HOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME...

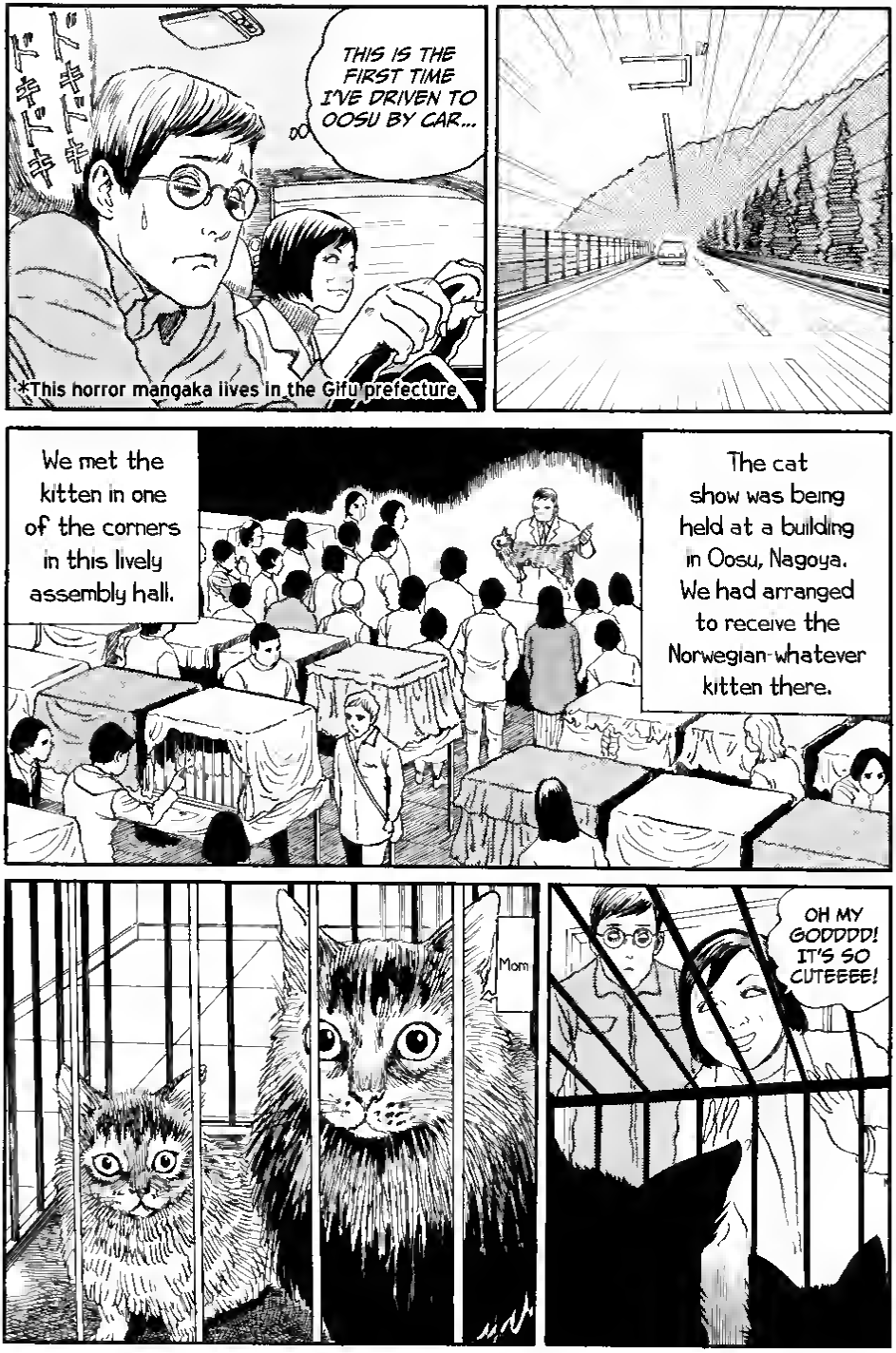
Somebody had said that he was a...
cat with a cursed face...

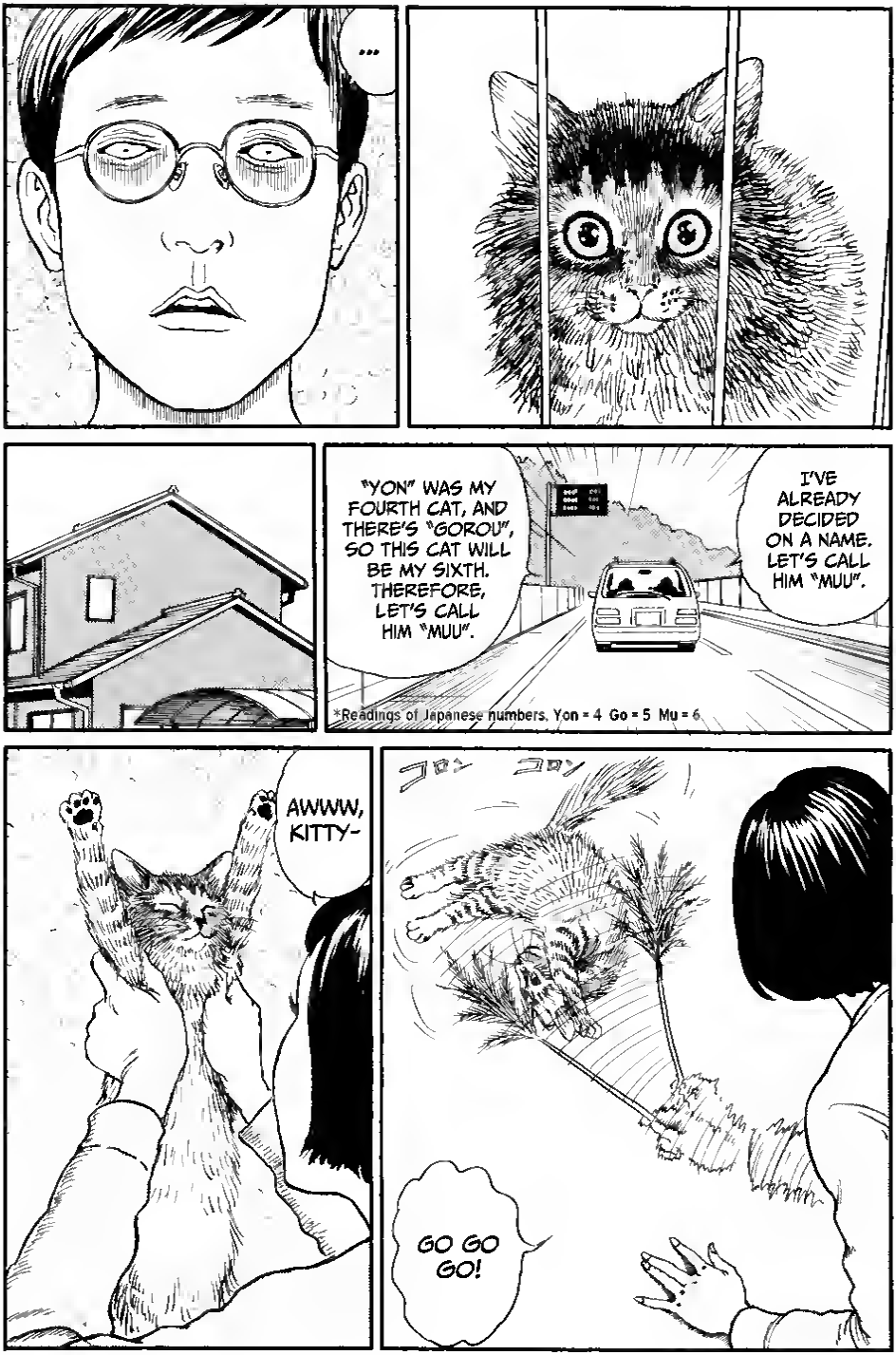

I Love Cats
キュッ
キュッ
キュッ

I WON'T ALLOW IT-!!
AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT CAT WITH A CURSED FACE...
IS COMING TO MY HOUSE!?
I WON'T ALLOW IT... I WON'T ALLOW IT...

WE DON'T WANT THE CAT TO SCRATCH THE WALLS, SO I BOUGHT SOME SHEETS TO PREVENT SCRATCHING.
HELP ME PUT THEM ON THE WALLS.
WHAT IS IT, A-KO...?
J-KUN?
I WON'T ALLOW THIS-!!
ピピ
I WON'T ALLOW THIS... I WON'T ALLOW THIS..
THE BRAND NEW WALLS OF MY NEW HOME HAVE BEEN DEFILED BY THESE SHINING SHEETS...
AHH...
WE USED PINS TO AFFIX THEM...
THIS IS ACTUALLY SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO USE DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE TO PUT UP, BUT THE WALL PAPER MIGHT RIP WHEN YOU TEAR IT OFF, SO...

J-KUN?
WHAT NOW?
NOW THEN... ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO WELCOME THAT CURSED CAT, "YON".
I THINK YON MIGHT BE LONELY ALL BY HIMSELF.
IF WE HAD ONE MORE CAT, HE COULD HAVE SOMEONE TO PLAY WITH.
THEY'RE A BREED CALLED NORWEGIAN FOREST CATS.
TAKE A LOOK. MY FRIEND JUST SHOWED ME THIS. THERE ARE THESE INCREDIBLY CUTE KITTENS THAT THEY CAN'T FIND BUYERS FOR.
I'D RATHER KEEP ONE CAT AND YOU'RE TELLING ME WE'RE GOING TO KEEP TWO...
WHA... WHAT...!? YOU WANT TO KEEP ANOTHER CAT...!?
I'LL NEVER ALLOW IIIIT!!
I'LL NEVER ALLOW IT...
I'LL NEVER ALLOW IT...

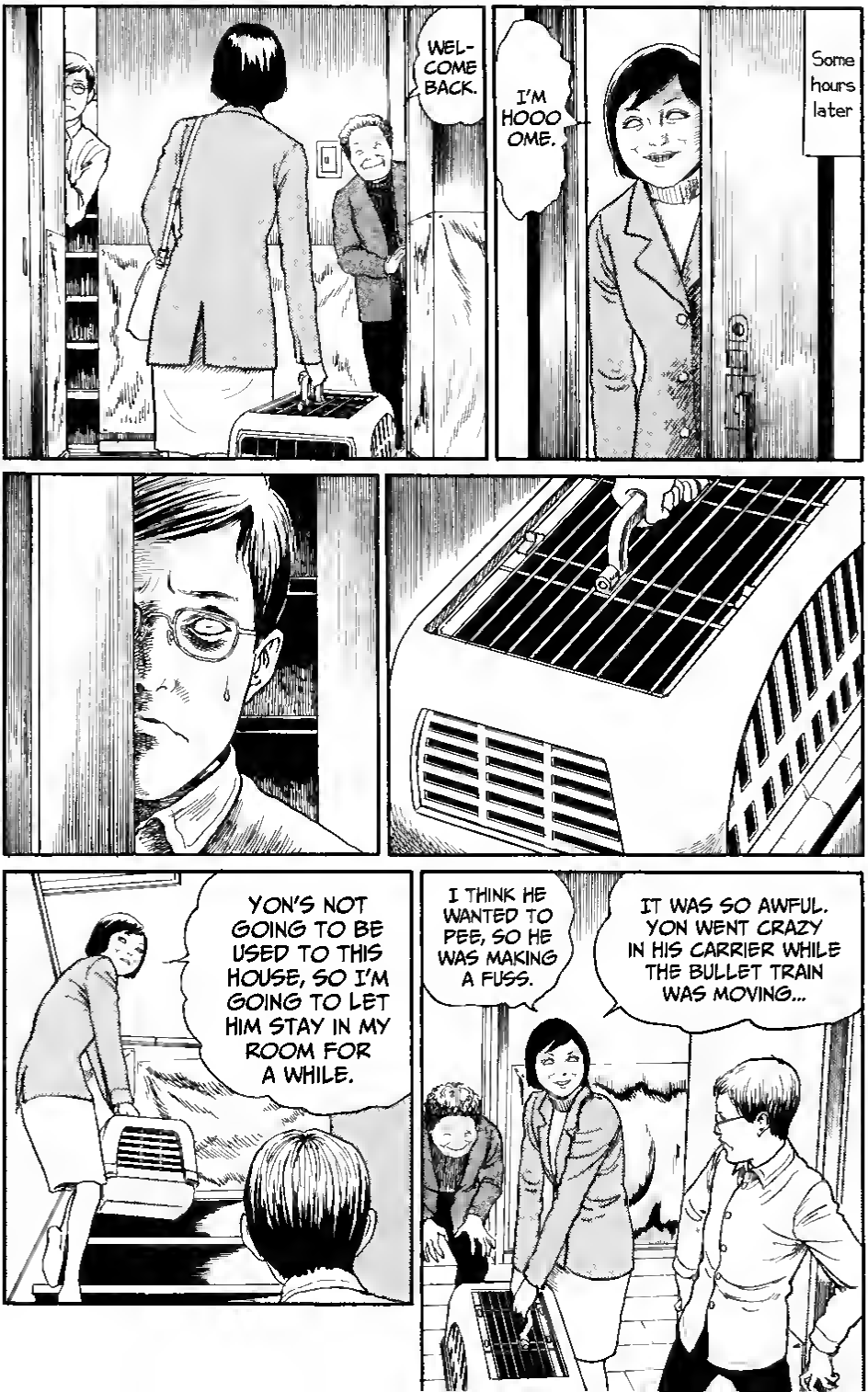

ドキドキ
ドキドキ
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE DRIVEN TO OOSU BY CAR...
*This horror mangaka lives in the Gifu prefecture
We met the kitten in one of the corners in this lively assembly hall.
The cat show was being held at a building in Oosu, Nagoya. We had arranged to receive the Norwegian-whatever kitten there.
Mom
OH MY GODDDD! IT'S SO CUTEEEE!


...
"YON" WAS MY FOURTH CAT, AND THERE'S "GOROU", SO THIS CAT WILL BE MY SIXTH. THEREFORE, LET'S CALL HIM "MUU".
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED ON A NAME. LET'S CALL HIM "MUU".
*Readings of Japanese numbers. Yon = 4 Go = 5 Mu = 6
AWWW, KITTY-
コロン コロン
GO GO GO!

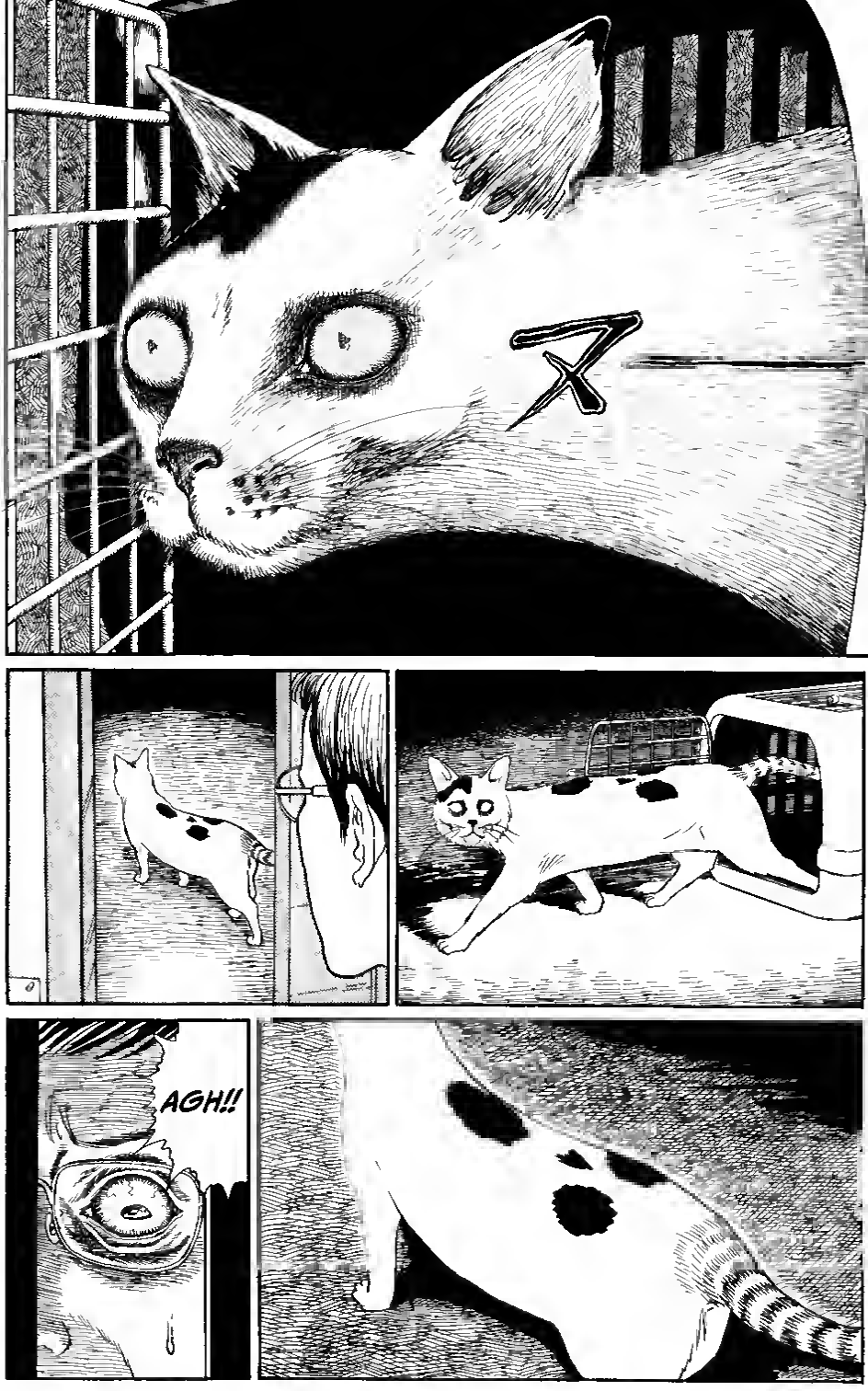
OOOH, YOU'RE SO CUTE, AREN'T YOU!?
OHHH, HE'S SO CUTEEEE!
The horror Manga's mother
Sakura the Chihuahua
ゴゴゴ
GIVE HIM HERE!
G...
HAHH HAHH

KISS
KISS
KISSSS!
EATCHA
UP—!!!
I... I'M
GONNA...
EATCHA
UP—!!!
チュー
チュー
チュー
チュー

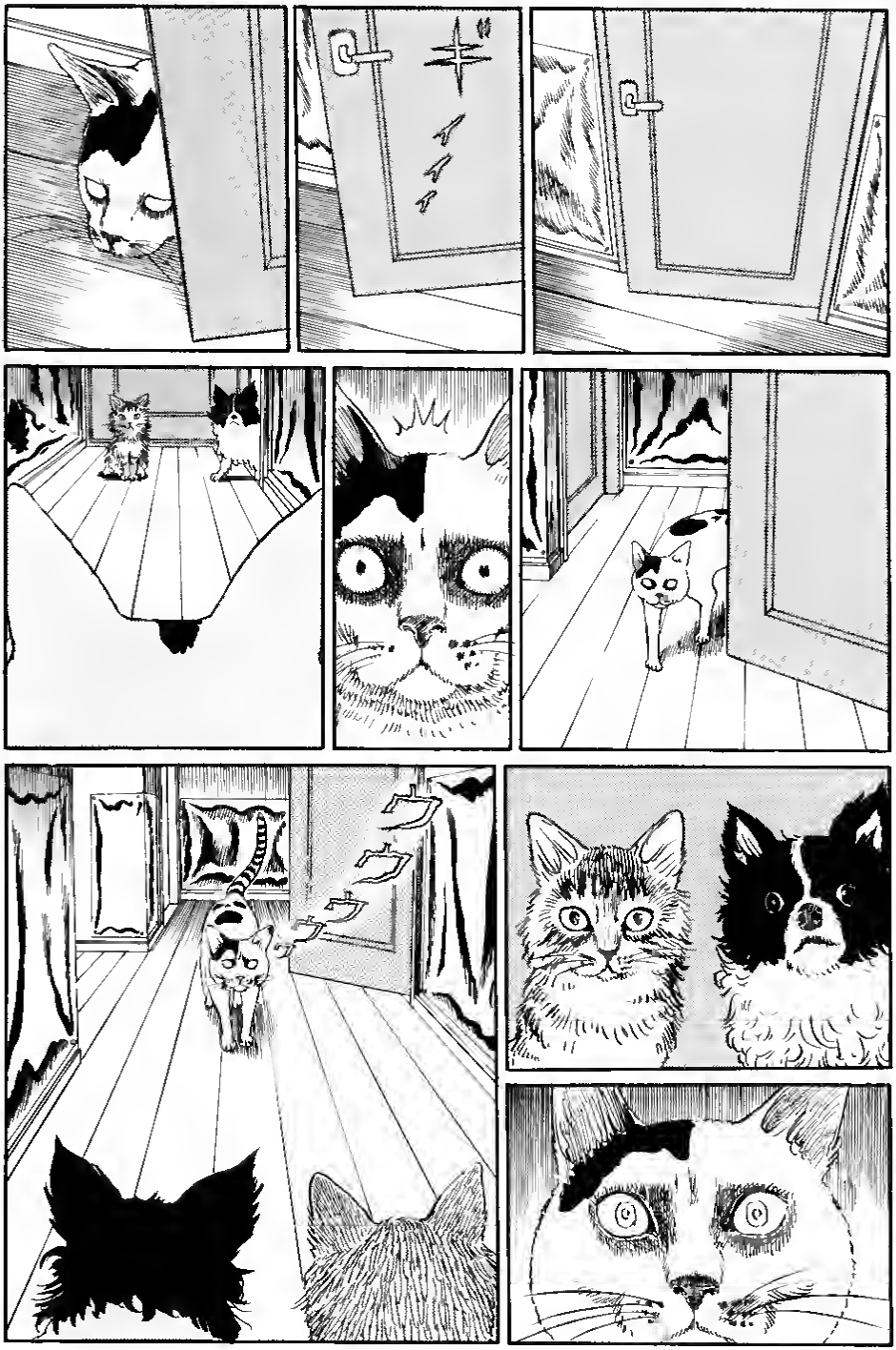
HE'S COMING TO MY HOUSE...
HE'S ALMOST HERE...
HE'S COMING...
AND IN A FEW MORE HOURS HE'LL BE COMING TO MY HOUSE...
RIGHT NOW, A-KO SHOULD BE ON THE BULLET TRAIN FROM CHIBA BRINGING HIM OVER.
THE CAT WITH THE CURSED FACE, YON...
Chapter 02: Yon Invades

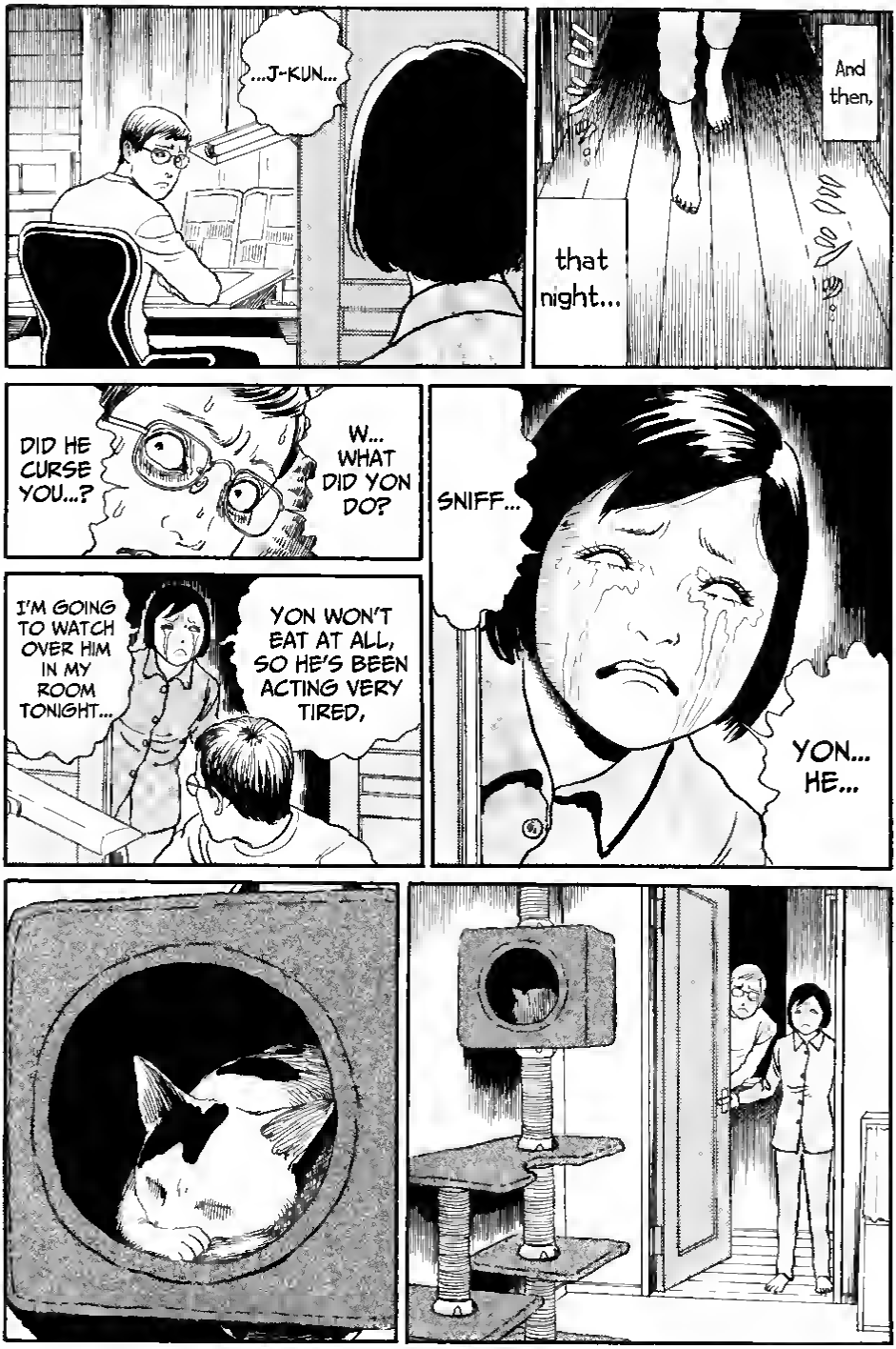

WEL-COME BACK.
I'M HOOO OME.
Some hours later
YON'S NOT GOING TO BE USED TO THIS HOUSE, SO I'M GOING TO LET HIM STAY IN MY ROOM FOR A WHILE.
I THINK HE WANTED TO PEE, SO HE WAS MAKING A FUSS.
IT WAS SO AWFUL. YON WENT CRAZY IN HIS CARRIER WHILE THE BULLET TRAIN WAS MOVING...

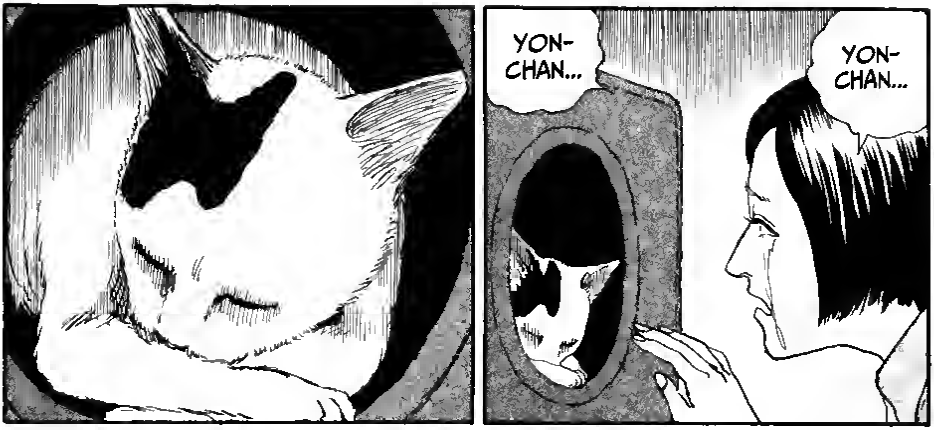
バタン
ガチャッ
イイイ

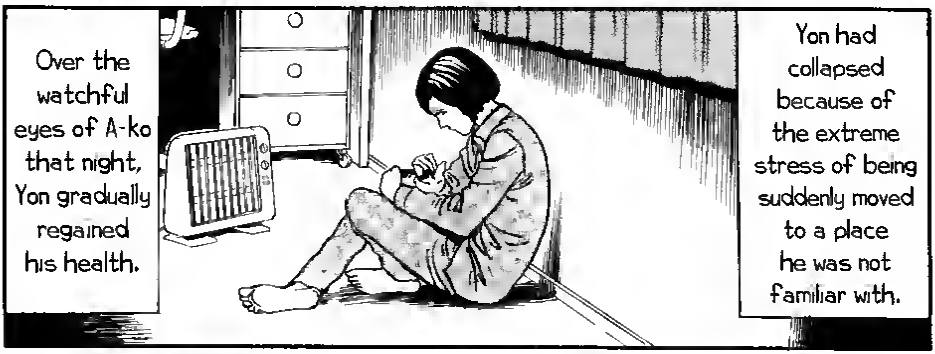

AGH!!

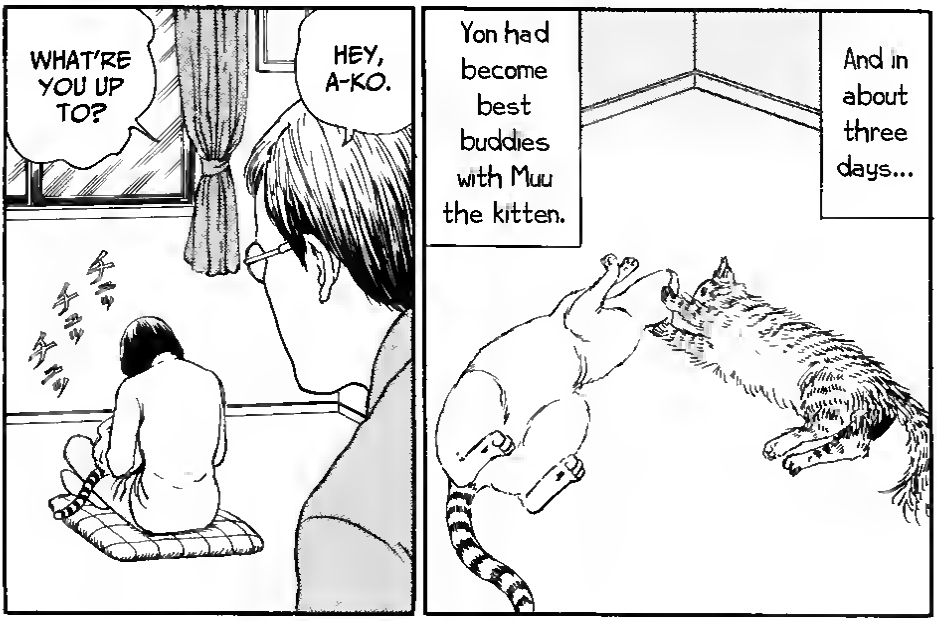
IT LOOKS LIKE A SKULL...
ON HIS BACK...
I... I'M GOING TO BE CURSED ...
HE'S A CURSED CAT...
THE CURSED CAT IS HERE!!
THE CURSE HAS BEEN PLACED ON MY HOUSE!!


ギィィィ
ウウウウ


...J-KUN...
And then,
that night...
DID HE CURSE YOU...?
W... WHAT DID YON DO?
SNIFF...
I'M GOING TO WATCH OVER HIM IN MY ROOM TONIGHT...
YON WON'T EAT AT ALL, SO HE'S BEEN ACTING VERY TIRED,
YON... HE...




Over the watchful eyes of A-ko that night, Yon gradually regained his health.
Yon had collapsed because of the extreme stress of being suddenly moved to a place he was not familiar with.


WHAT'RE YOU UP TO?
HEY, A-KO.
Yon had become best buddies with Muu the kitten.
And in about three days...

チュボ
チュボ
チュボ
チュボ
HE'S USING MY FINGER IN PLACE OF HIS MOTHER. HE'S STILL ONLY ONE YEAR OLD.
SUCKLING. (IN PLACE OF A BREAST.)
He simply just had a "strange face"...
SUCKLING, HUH... I SEE...
That's when I noticed... Yon didn't have a "cursed face"...
G... GIVE HIM TO ME!
ハア
ハア
And even though he had a strange face, it was still cute in its own way...

SUCKLE ON MY FINGER TOO!
SUCK-LE!
and the cat with the "strange face" Yon, joined my household.
They brought me to such a strange place, nya!
GRRRRRR!
And so the quiet and calm Muu,
HE'LL ONLY SUCKLE ON MY FINGER...
HEH HEH HEH...
GRRRRRR!

Q & A with J-Sensei!

Question.1

I heard that you're currently the vice president of the neighborhood association in the area that you live in. I hope you'll write an extra chapter in "Yon & Muu" called "The vice president is a Horror Mangaka!?"
...What does the vice president in a neighborhood association do?

Answer.

I'm mainly in charge of the finances. I do things like take care of the arrangements for gathering the money at the end of the month for the neighborhood association and manage the income and expenditures. I'm not very good at accounting, so I have to be careful to not get anything wrong. I also help as an aide to the president of the neighborhood association at neighborhood functions. A few days ago we had the new year's meeting for the neighborhood association, I helped organize everything for the president, I was quite busy.

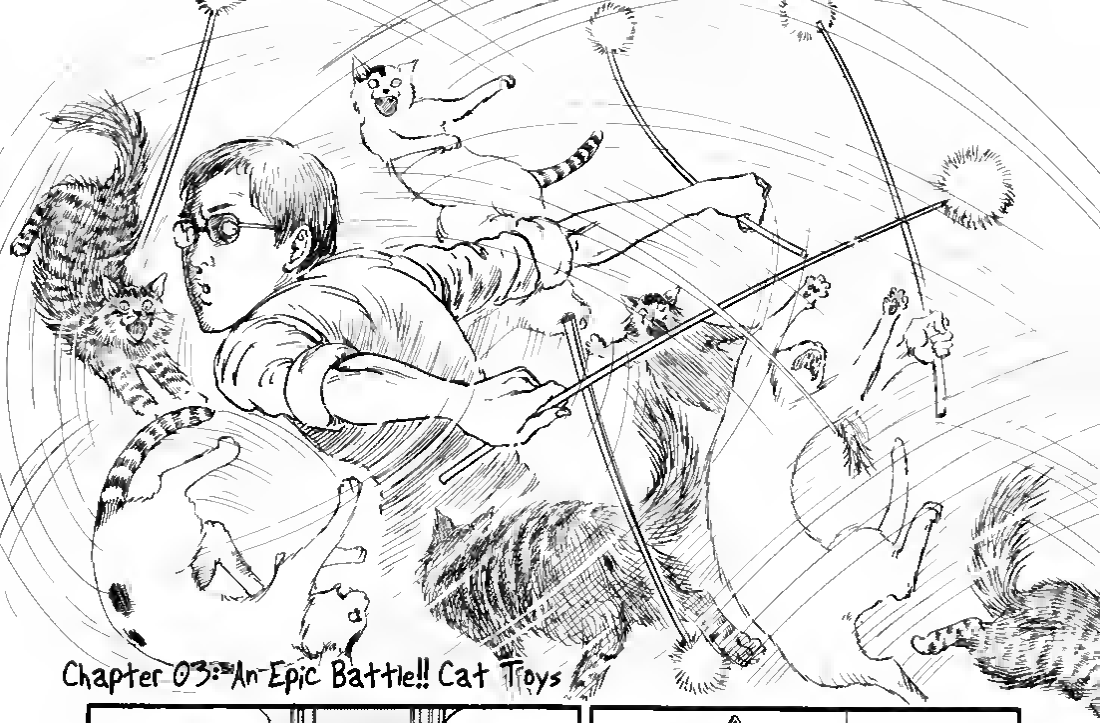
Q & A with J-Sensei!

Question.2

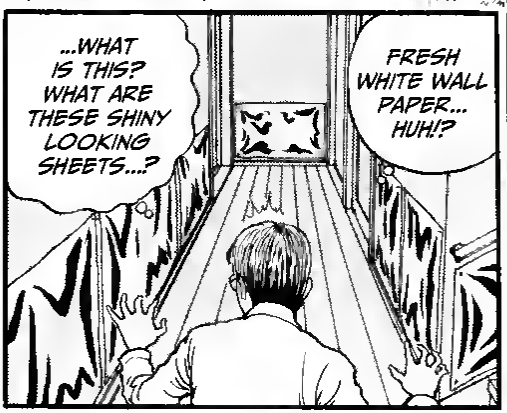
This is a question about the time when you were just starting off as a Mangaka and your mother and sister were helping you as assistants.
I heard a rumor that at the time your mother and sister were better than you at filling in the blacks. Is it true?

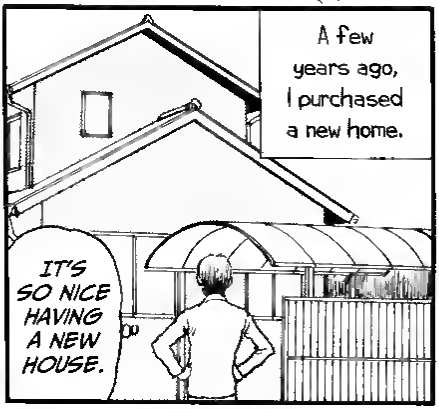
Answer.

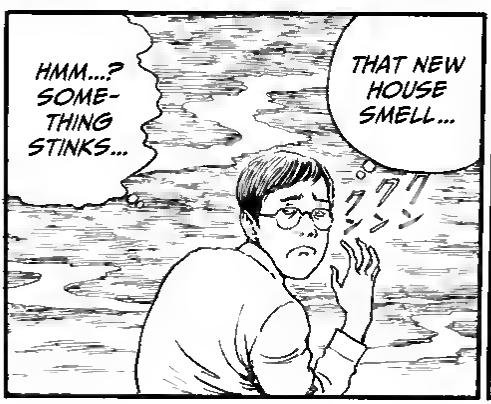
When I have them take care of that work for me, they actually become better than me. I'm especially bad at putting on tones, my mother and sister are better than me at that. I am still receiving help from my mother and my wife.

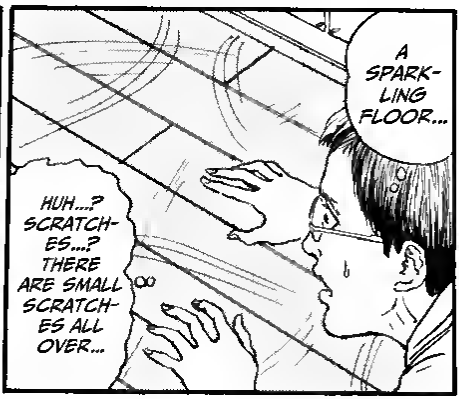


Chapter 03: An Epic Battle!! Cat Toys





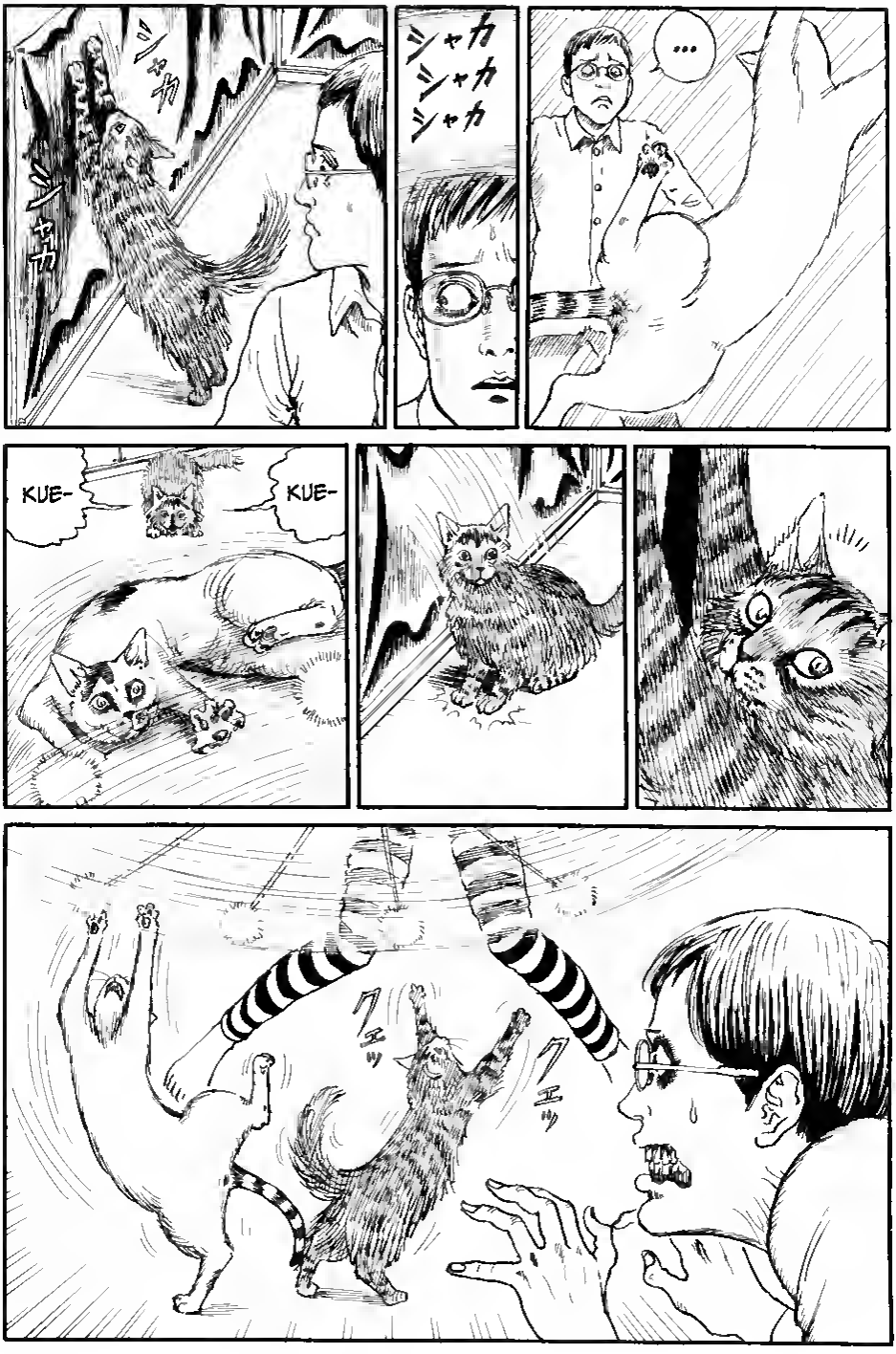




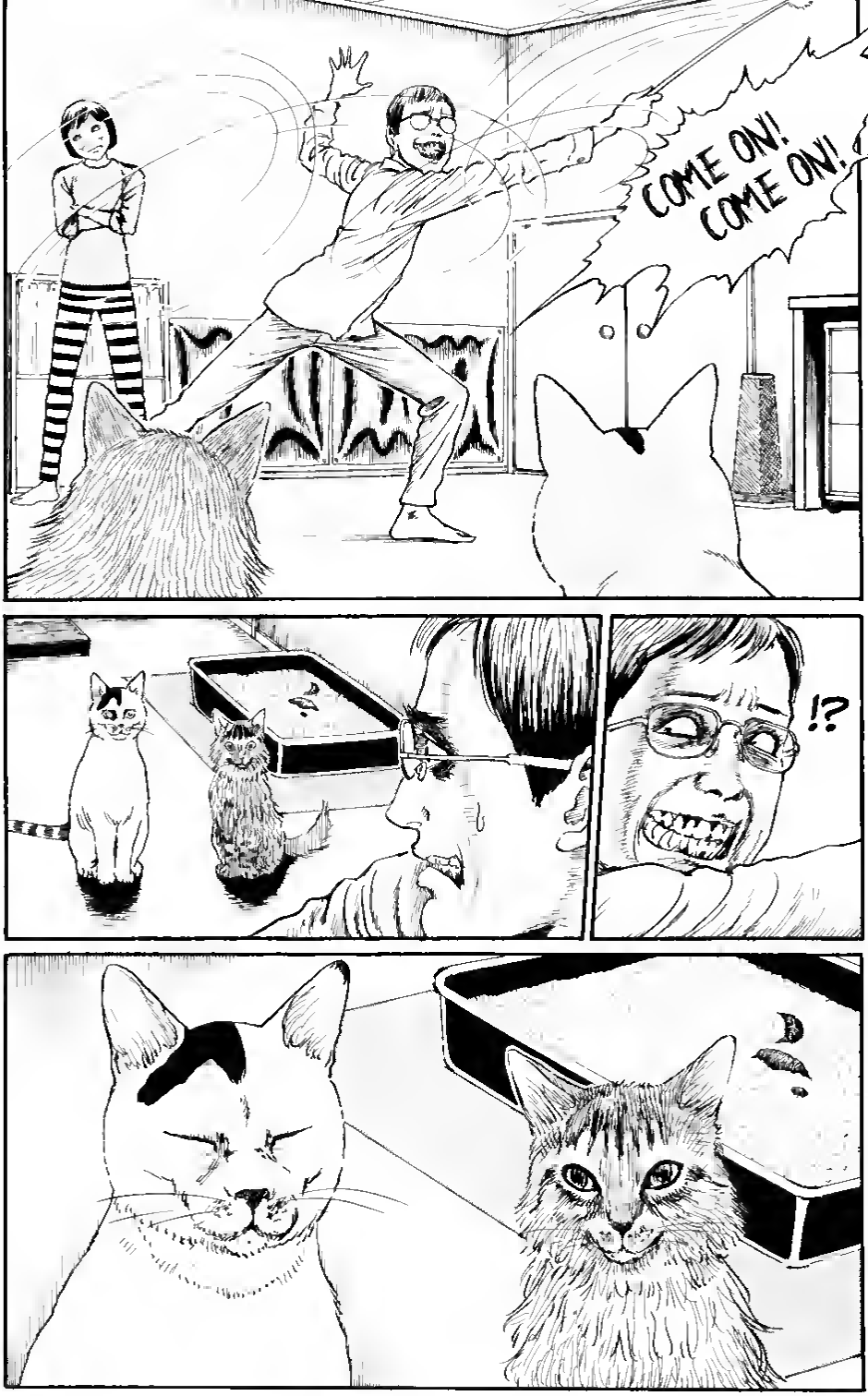
WH... WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?
THIS IS WHAT'S STINKING UP THE PLACE...
WHAT IS SOMETHING LIKE THIS DOING HERE...?
つと
つと
つと
つと
ビクッ
HNG!?
ヴヴヴ

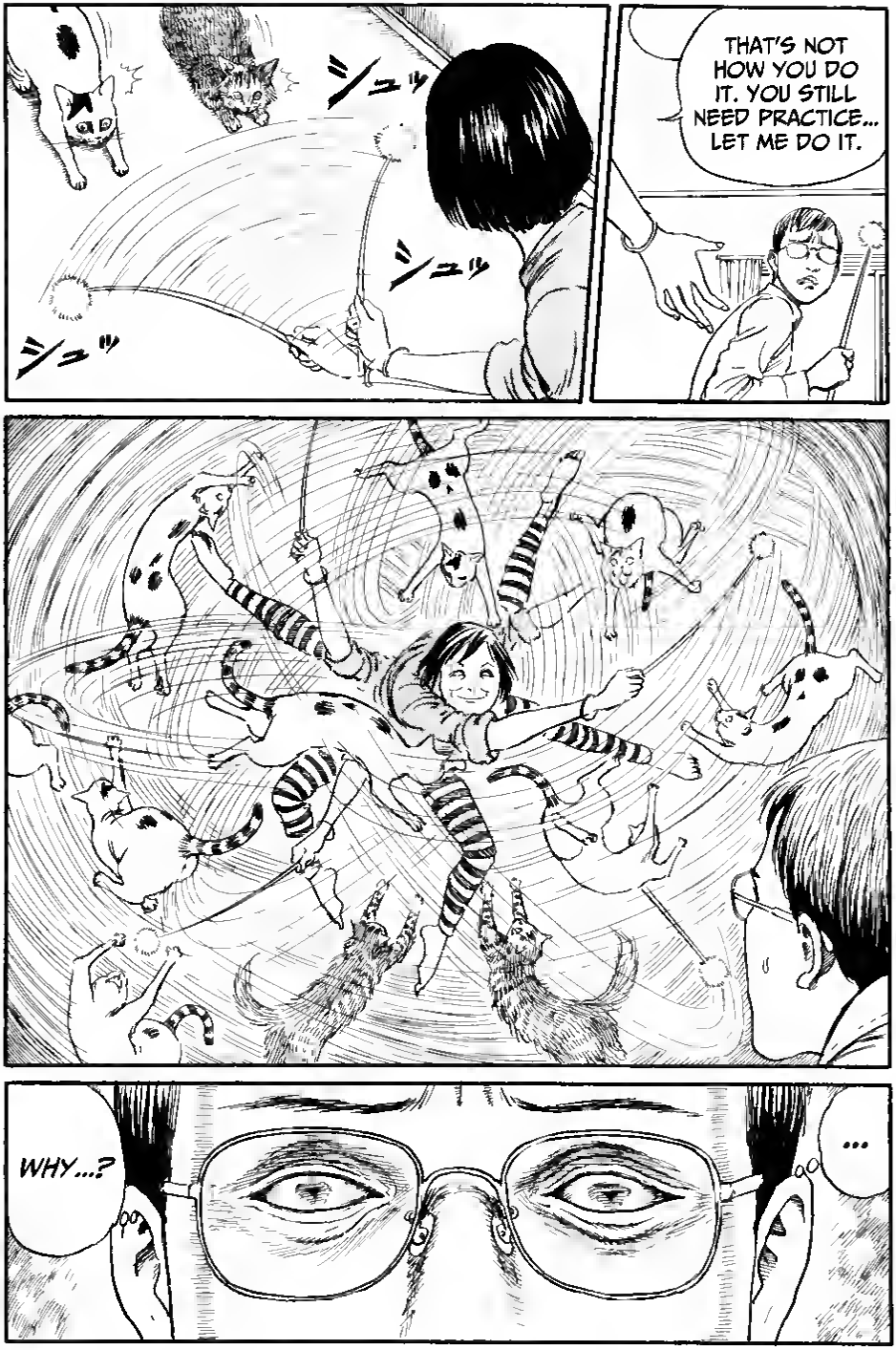
Hey! J!
WHA-!?
"YON" AND "MUU"...
THAT'S RIGHT, WE'VE GOT CATS IN THE HOUSE...
THAT SMELL... IT'S THE CAT!!
H... HE'S URINATING!!
A-KO ...
コン
コン
コン
コン
コン
コン
コン

シャカ シャカシャカ
コン
コン
コン
ニュッ
ニュッ
ガッ
ガッ
ガッ
ガッ
ガッ


シャカ
シャカ
シャカ
シャカ
シャカ
…
KUE-
KUE-
フェッ
フェッ

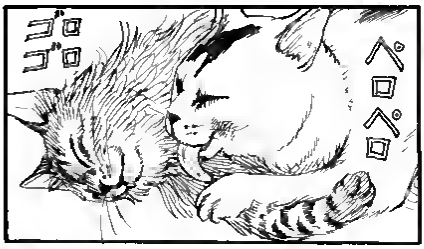
THEY GET TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT IN MY NEW HOUSE!!
GRRR... YON AND MUU... FOR SOME REASON...
ガリッ
シャギッ
GIVE ME THAT!
WHAT?
A-KO!!
TO AND FRO, LIKE YOU'VE GOT NO SHAME AND YOU'RE ALL BY YOURSELF!!
LIKE THIS AND THAT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WAVING THIS STUPID STICK AROUND!?


COME ON!
COME ON!
!?

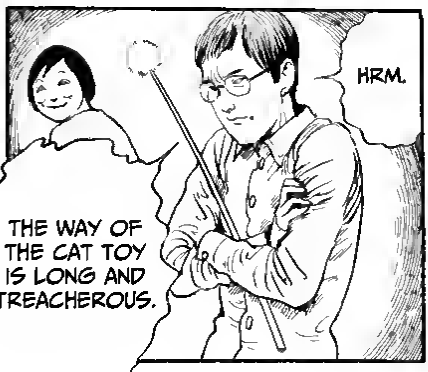

シュッ
シュッ
シュッ
THAT'S NOT HOW YOU DO IT. YOU STILL NEED PRACTICE... LET ME DO IT.
WHY...?
...

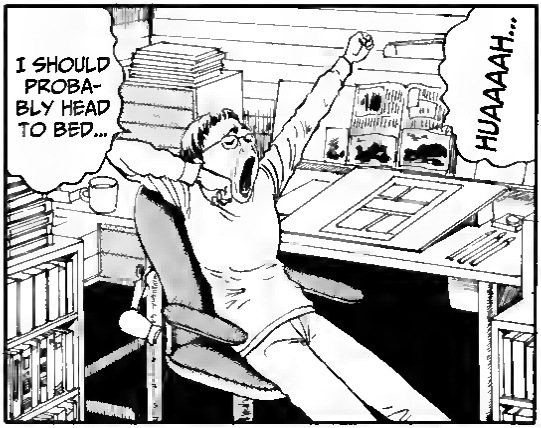
FIRST, YOU STOP.
ピタッ
WATCH THIS.
WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING WITH A CAT TOY, YOU'VE GOT TO APPEAL TO THE CAT'S NATURE.
...
GIVE IT A TRY.
YOU CAN'T JUST MOVE IT AROUND HOWEVER YOU LIKE...
シャカ
AND THEN YOU MOVE!!
SILENCE AND...
ピタッ
...

MOVEMENT!!
シュッ
シュッ
シュッ


ゴロゴロ
パロパロ

Kue- Kue-
!?

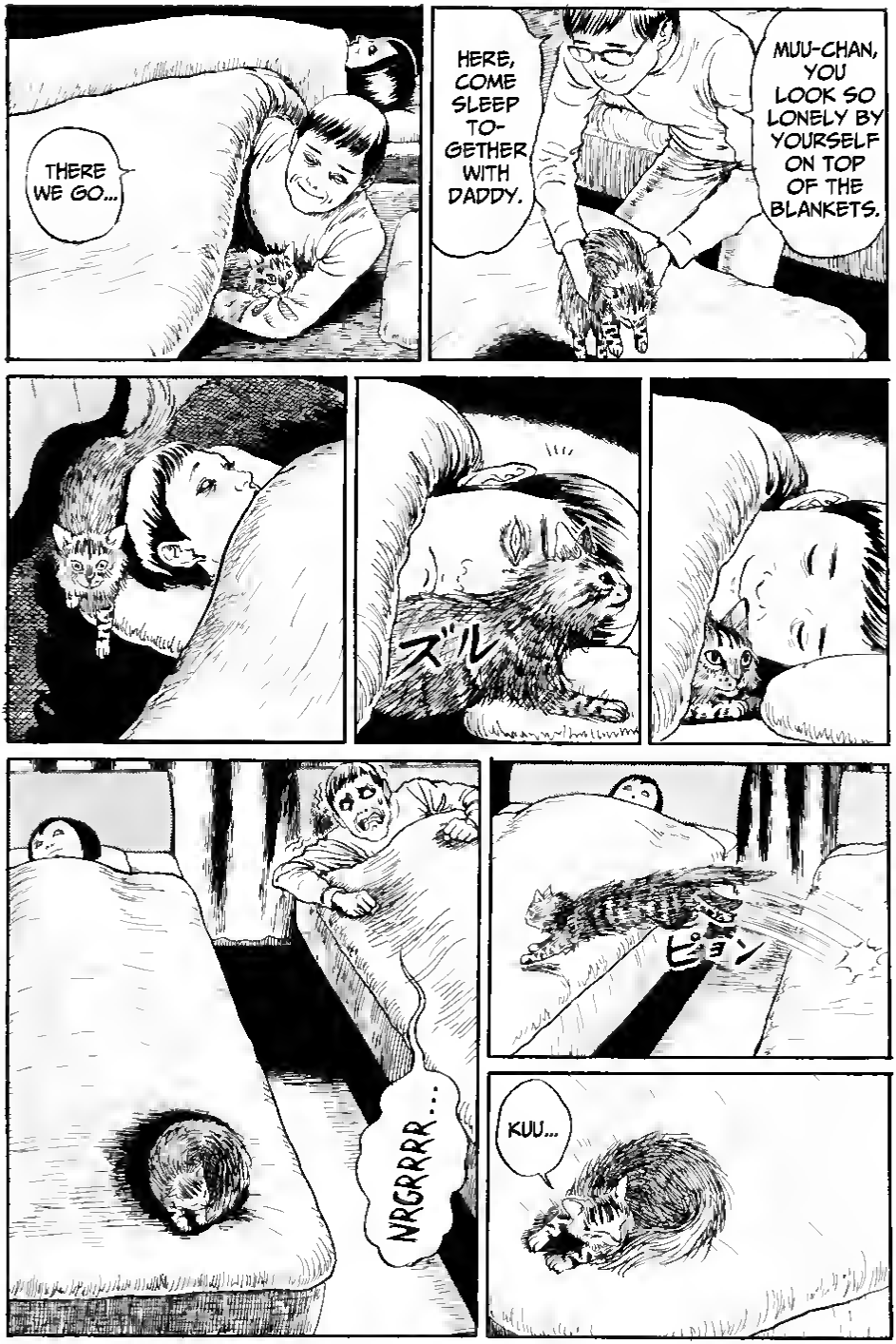

HRM.
THE WAY OF THE CAT TOY IS LONG AND TREACHEROUS.



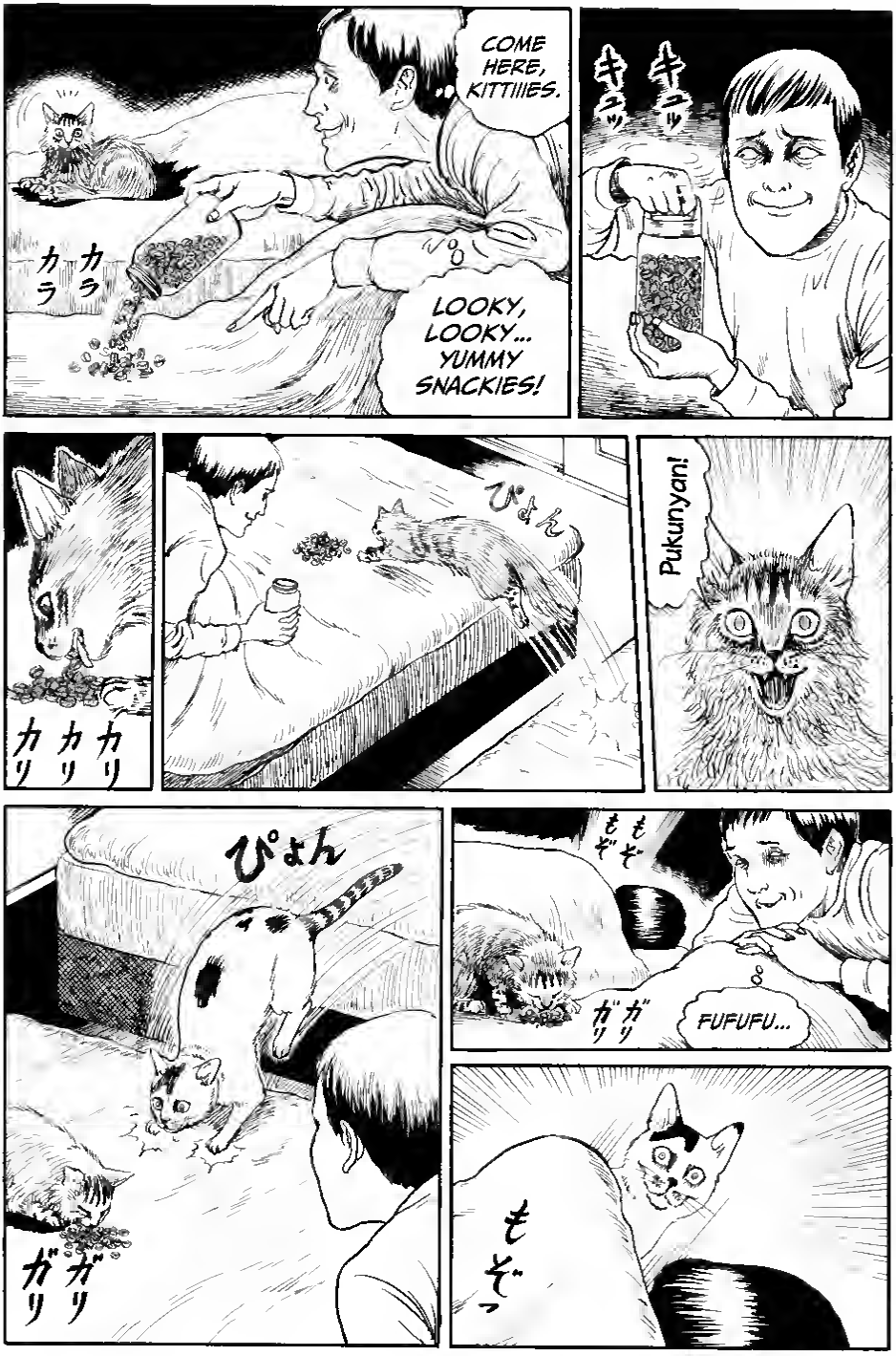
Chapter 04: The Events of a Certain Night

チュッ
チュッ
チュッ

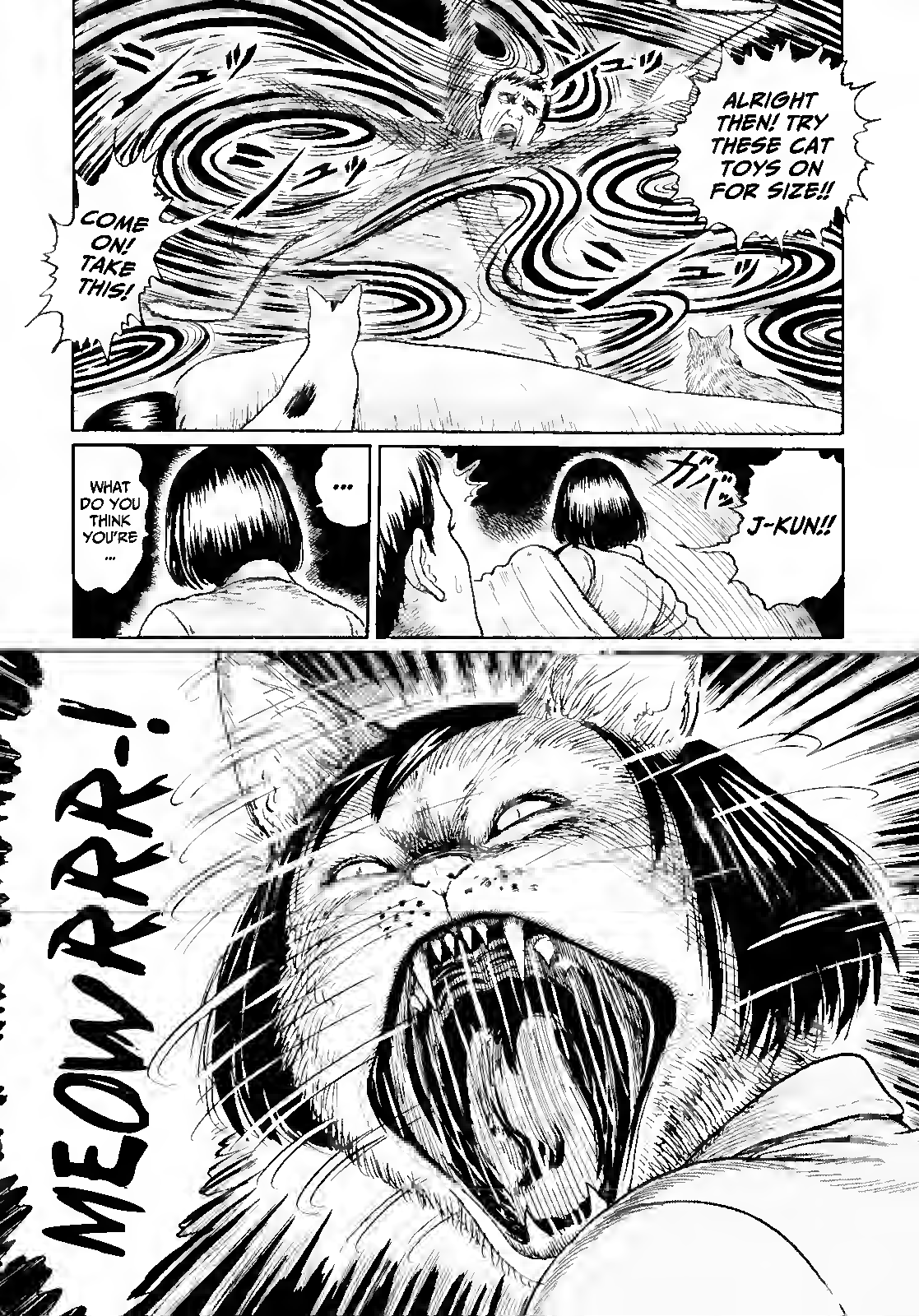
チュッ
チュッ
AH...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IT'S FREEZING.
PUT THE COVERS BACK.
OH... IT WAS JUST YON SUCKLING ON HER FINGER...
HOW SHAME-LESS...
TIME FOR BED.


THERE WE GO...
HERE, COME SLEEP TO-GETHER WITH DADDY.
MUU-CHAN, YOU LOOK SO LONELY BY YOURSELF ON TOP OF THE BLANKETS.
ズル
ピョン
NRGRRRR...
KUU...

IF HE WANTS TO SLEEP ON TOP OF THE BLANKETS, I'VE GOT MORE SPACE ON MY SIDE.
OH... I SEE, BUT...
MUU IS A LONG HAIRED CAT.
IT'S TOO HOT FOR HIM UNDER THE COVERS.
チュッ
チュッ
チュッ
チュッ
チュッ
チュッ
チュッ
...
HE MUST WANT TO BE NEAR ME. HE LUUUUUUVS ME...
FUFU FU...
IF SHE'S USING MAGIC, THEN I'LL DO BATTLE WITH PRACTICAL MATERIAL ITEMS.
WELL, THEN...
ガバッ
チュッ
チュッ
チュッ
チュッ
チュッ
...A-KO MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF MAGIC POWERS SHE'S USING TO CHARM THE CATS...
チュッ
チュッ
チュッ
チュッ
チュッ
GOD DAMMIT ...


COME HERE, KITTIIIES.
カラカラ
LOOKY, LOOKY... YUMMY SNACKIES!
キュッ キュッ
カリカリカリ
ぴょん
Pukunyan!
ぴょん
ガリガリガリ
もぞもぞ
ガリガリ
FUFUFU...
もぞっ

UFUFUFUFUFUFU...
ガリ
ゴリ
ガリ
OH... ARE WE SATISFIED ...?
JUST FALL ASLEEP HERE... KUKUKU.
HEE HEE HEE... NOW BOTH OF THEM SHOULD
ガリッ
YOU JUST EAT!? YOU JUST EAT AND THEN LEAVE!?
ぴょん
ぴょん


COME ON! TAKE THIS!
ALRIGHT THEN! TRY THESE CAT TOYS ON FOR SIZE!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE ...
...
J-KUN!!
MEOWRRR-!

UWAGH!
HFF...
IT WAS JUST A DREAM.
WHAT A HORRIBLE NIGHT-MARE...
MMHH.
HM?
SOME-THING'S BY THE SIDE OF MY PILLOW...
サラッ
サラッ
WHAT IS THAT?
OH.. THIS FUR...
IT'S MUU!!
MUU CAME OVER AND IS SLEEPING BY MY SIDE!!
I DID IT... I FINALLY DID IT...

I SLEPT PRETTY WELL...
HUUAAAH...
MUU, ARE YOU STILL SLEEPING ...?
OR DO YOU JUST LOVE BEING NEXT TO ME THAT MUCH?
AH-
...
WHAT ...
SO IT WAS JUST A LUMP ON THE BLANKET ...

Q & A with J-Sensei!

Question.3

Do you make use of your experiences and the skills you got from your previous job as a dental technician when you create manga? The plaster busts you have made (that is used as a resource and such for drawing characters) are really well-made, and you can really sense a high level of technique.

Answer.

The job of a dental technician is to make objects that go into their patient's mouthes. When you make dentures and such you have to make sure they're smooth so that the inside of the mouth does not get injured. In regards to creating manga, there are tools that you have to make by hand, and I make use of skills of the craft there. I make sure all of my tools are smooth.

Q & A with J-Sensei!

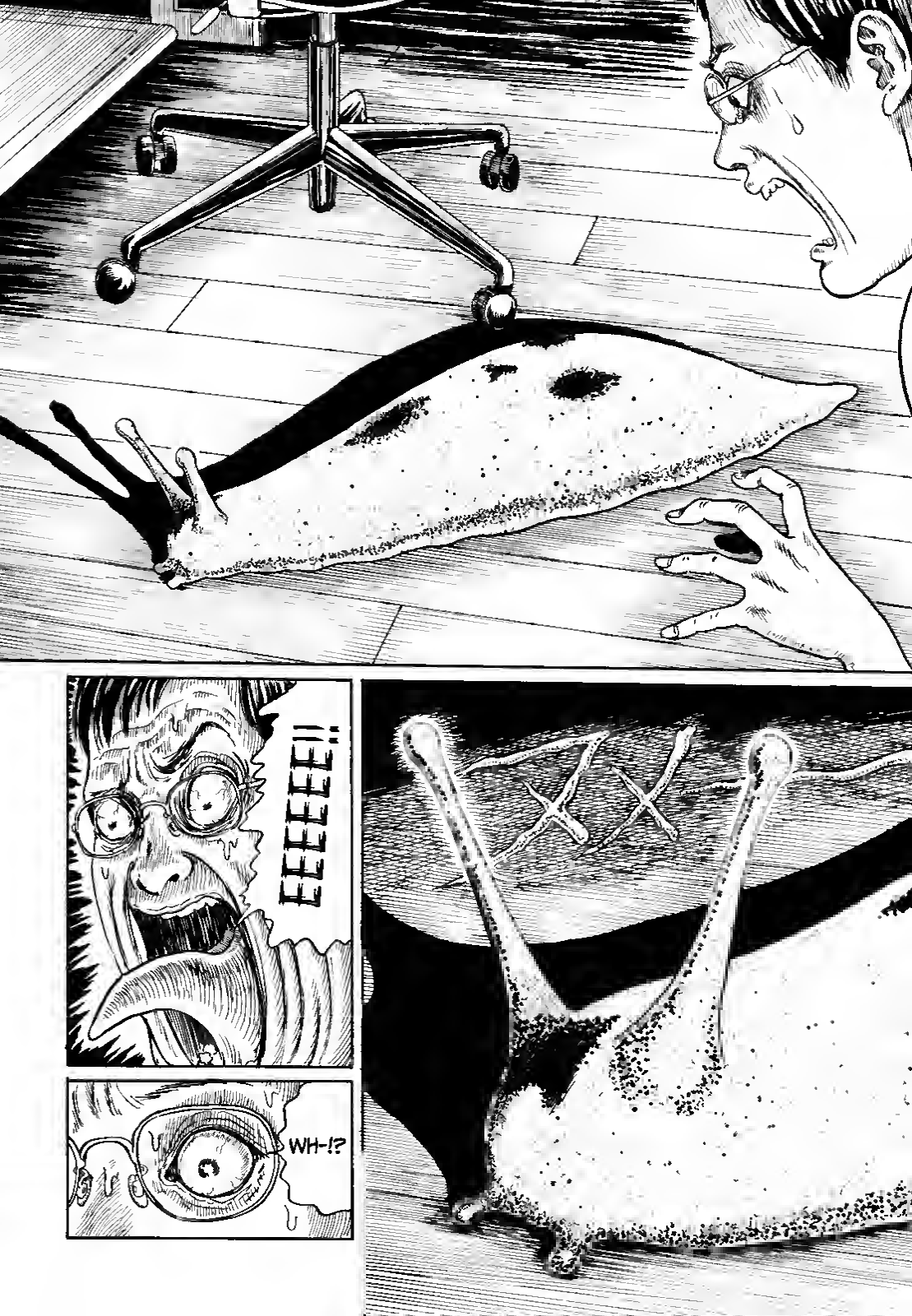
Question.4

Your family seemed to have a fairly large impression on the content of "Yon & Muu." What kind of things did they have input on specifically?

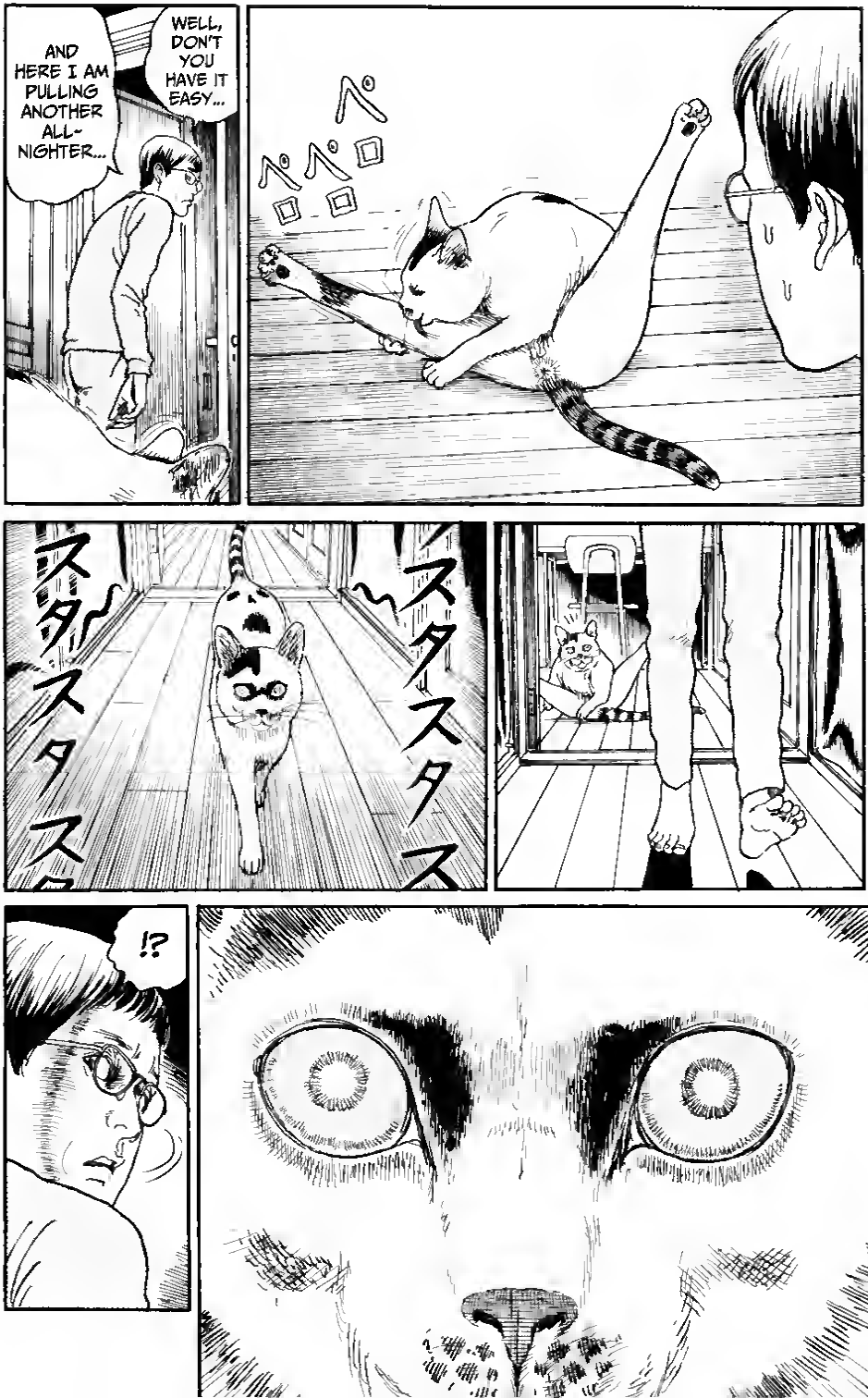
Answer.

I received a lot of guidance on the nature of cats from my wife. I also received a lot of critique from her when the comic was in the manuscript phase. My mother said to me, "This is such an amusing comic!" My sister wanted me to put her female long haired cat that she takes care of named Ran-chan (formal name: Ran Purahachi Daruma Tsuchinoko Sanzoku Katsuhin) in the manga but I couldn't because I didn't have enough space. Sorry, sis.

My head always gets all woozy.
チュン
IT'S MORNING ALREADY...
チュン
The all-nighters just before the deadline are really tough...
MAYBE I SHOULD GO WASH MY FACE...
AHHHH, I FEEL SO DIZZY...
WHA-!?
Chapter 05: Yon is a Really Strange Cat


EEEEEE!!
WH-!?

クルッ
O... OH, IT'S JUST YON... I THOUGHT HE WAS A SLUG...
I'M PRETTY TIRED MYSELF...
Munya Munya
Fuwaaaaaaa!
...


AND HERE I AM PULLING ANOTHER ALL-NIGHTER...
WELL, DON'T YOU HAVE IT EASY...
ペ
ペペロ
ロロ
スタスタ
スタスタ
!?

ニョロニョロニョロ
EEEEK!!

*A legendary snake-like cryptid from Japan

HURRY UP! CATCH IT!
A-KO! THERE'S A TSU-CHINOKO IN THE HOUSE!
IT EXISTS!! IT'S A TSUCHI-NOKO*!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT'S YON.
A-KO! IT'S INCRE-DIBLE! A TSUCHI-NOKO!!
WHAT IS IT, J-KUN? WHY ARE YOU MAKING SUCH A FUSS THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING?
HUH... ANOTHER HALLUCI-NATION...
WH... WHAT DID YOU SAY...?

...I CAN'T KEEP DOING THIS... I'M GOING TO GO CRAZY, IF I DON'T HURRY UP
AND FINISH THE MANUSCRIPT AND SLEEP... I'M GONNA START HALLU-CINATING THAT MUU IS A LION OR SOME-THING.
WHA-!!
Pukunyan
...THANK GOD, MUU LOOKS THE SAME AS HE ALWAYS DOES.
YOU'RE SO WELL BEHAVED AND CUTE...
GOOD KITTY.
ゴロゴロ

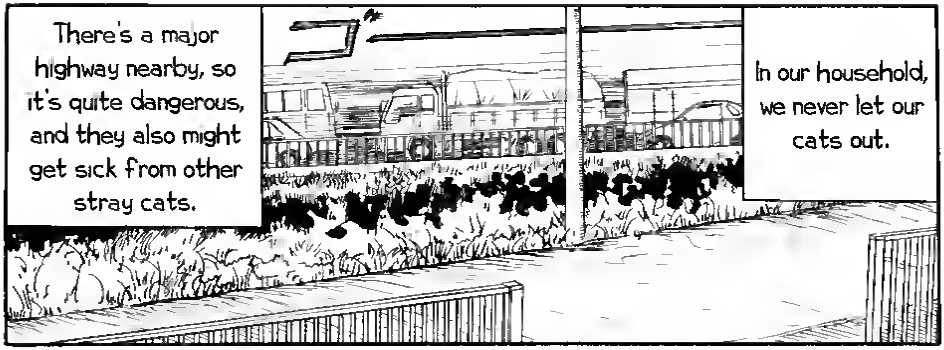
CAN YOU REALLY CALL SOMETHING LIKE THAT A CAT?
HOWEVER, YON... IS SOMETHING ELSE...
AH-!?
HE REALLY WASN'T HOLDING BACK ON THAT BITE, THOUGH...
...HRMM, WELL, HE IS A TYPICAL CAT SO I GUESS I'LL FORGIVE HIM.
カ!
OH...
THAT GUY LOOKS LIKE...
W... WHO IS THAT!?
Nya-
HM?
SOME COMFORT.
カリ
カリ
カリ
WHAT I NEED THE MOST RIGHT NOW IS JUST SOME REST...
I'M JUST TIRED, THAT'S ALL...
I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING STRANGE...

ぴょん
Nyaaaaa
YON ...?
WHAT IS HE TRYING TO DO...?
W... WHAT?
クルン
ブルンブルン
ブルンブルン
ブルンブルン

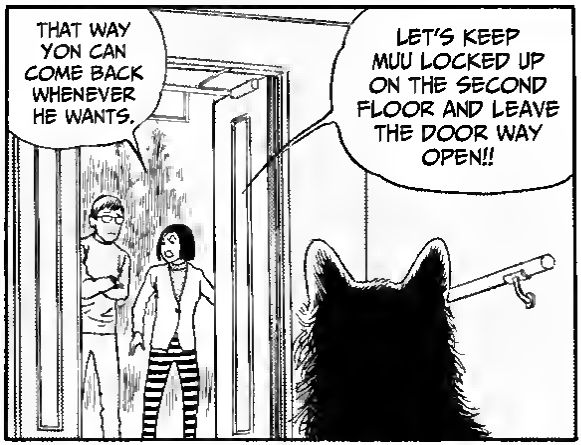
ブルン ブルン ブルン
ブルン ブルン ブルン
...We found ourselves in a strange moment...
Yes... if I had to put it into words... He was in the mood for "that"...
...
チュニッ
チュニッ チュニッ チュニッ
チュニッ チュニッ
It was the first time he had let me do that... Up until now, suckling was only something that A-ko could do.
Yon's rough tongue wrapped around my tired little finger warmly. It felt like we were beating together, quietly... And then strongly!!
But... perhaps it may have been just another illusion.

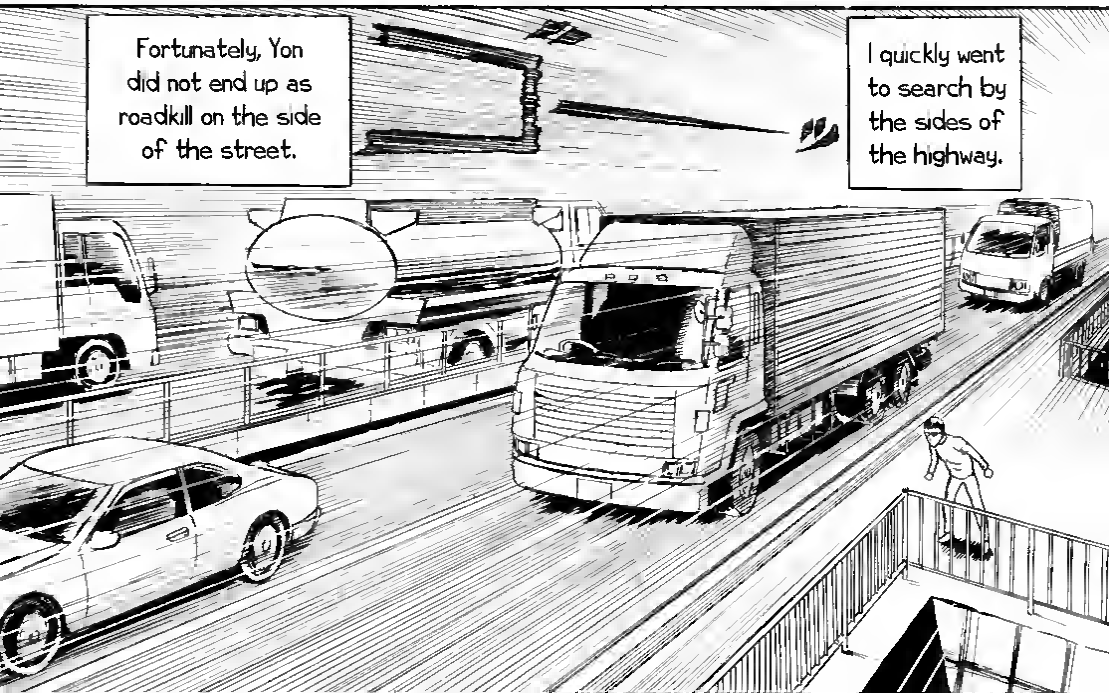
Chapter 06: Yon's Great Escape
This cat with a strange face...
is also brimming with curiosity!!
HM?
ハー
J-KUN!
カリ
カリ
カリ
カリ

WH... WHAT!?
HE'S ES-CAPED!!
IT'S YON!!
WHAT IS IT, A-KO?
YON WAS ABLE TO PRY IT OPEN MORE AND GET OUT!!
THIS WINDOW WAS OPEN AND I GUESS I MUST'VE LEFT THE SCREEN OPEN A BIT TOO...
Yon was nowhere to be seen.
...We immediately went outside and looked around, but...
BY THE TIME I NOTICED, YON HAD ALREADY JUMPED DOWN ONTO THE FENCE FROM THE ROOF.


There's a major highway nearby, so it's quite dangerous, and they also might get sick from other stray cats.
In our household, we never let our cats out.

Pukunyan

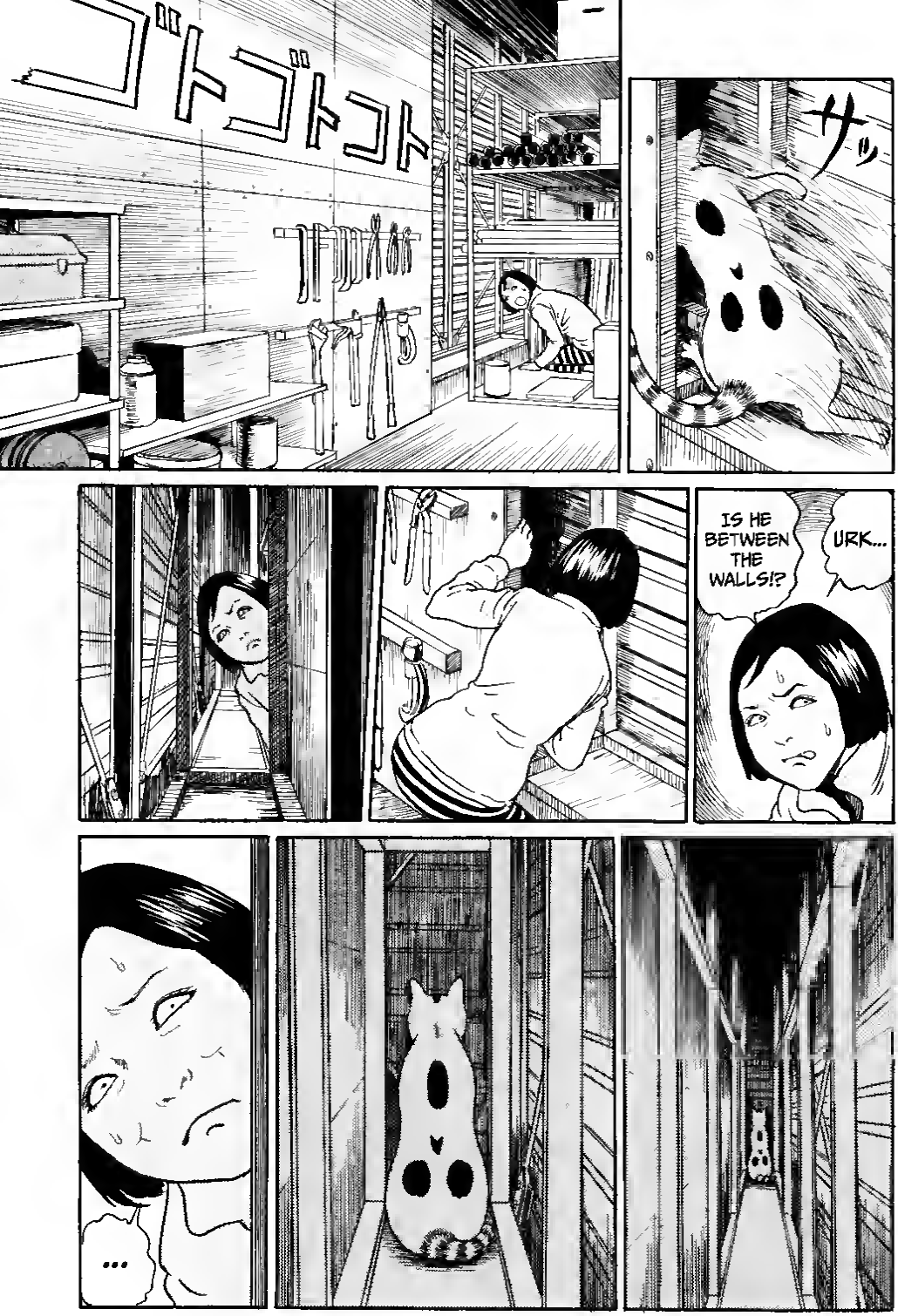

THAT WAY YON CAN COME BACK WHENEVER HE WANTS.
LET'S KEEP MUU LOCKED UP ON THE SECOND FLOOR AND LEAVE THE DOOR WAY OPEN!!


Fortunately, Yon did not end up as roadkill on the side of the street.
I quickly went to search by the sides of the highway.

I decided to head towards the farming fields next.
IF HE GETS LOST OVER HERE, IT'S GOING TO BE SO MUCH TROUBLE...
WE'VE GOT TO CATCH HIM QUICKLY...
HE'S NOT BACK YET!
Mom
Occasionally I returned to the house, however there was no news of Yon's return.
Unbeknownst to me, the plumber who lived nearby had joined our little search party as well.
The words of certain expert on finding cats was floating around in her mind.
CATS DO NOT VENTURE THAT FAR... THEY HIDE SOMEWHERE CLOSE BY...
While we were conducting our wide-spread search, A-ko was pursuing a different plan of attack.

HE MUST BE IN THE PLUMBER'S WAREHOUSE!!
田園水道
IF HE'S HIDING SOMEWHERE CLOSE TO THE HOUSE, THEN...
A-ko got permission from the plumbers and searched inside the warehouse.
!!
YON!
YON?

YON, COME HERE!
YON!
サササササ

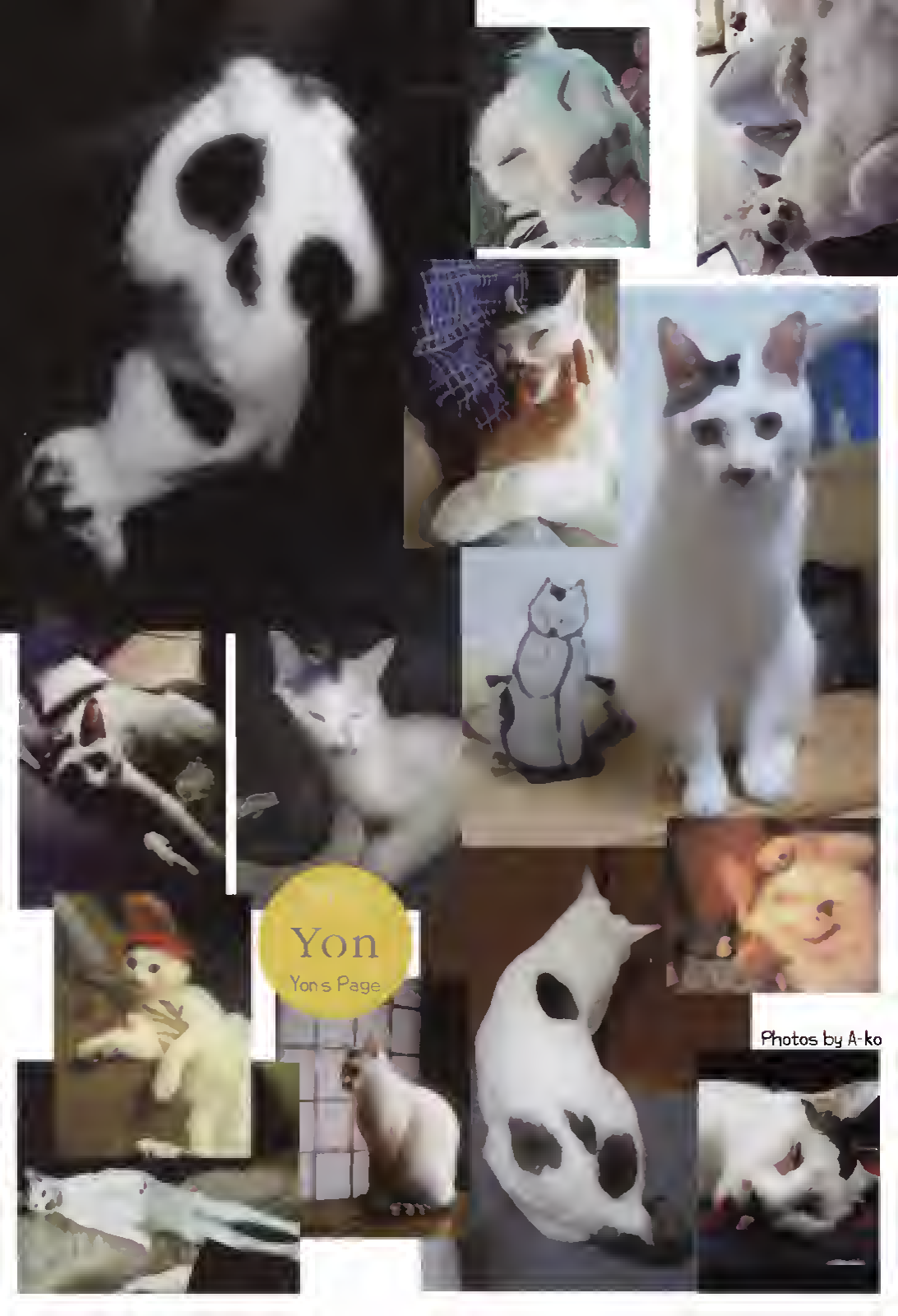

ゴトゴトゴト
サッ
IS HE BETWEEN THE WALLS!?
URK...
...

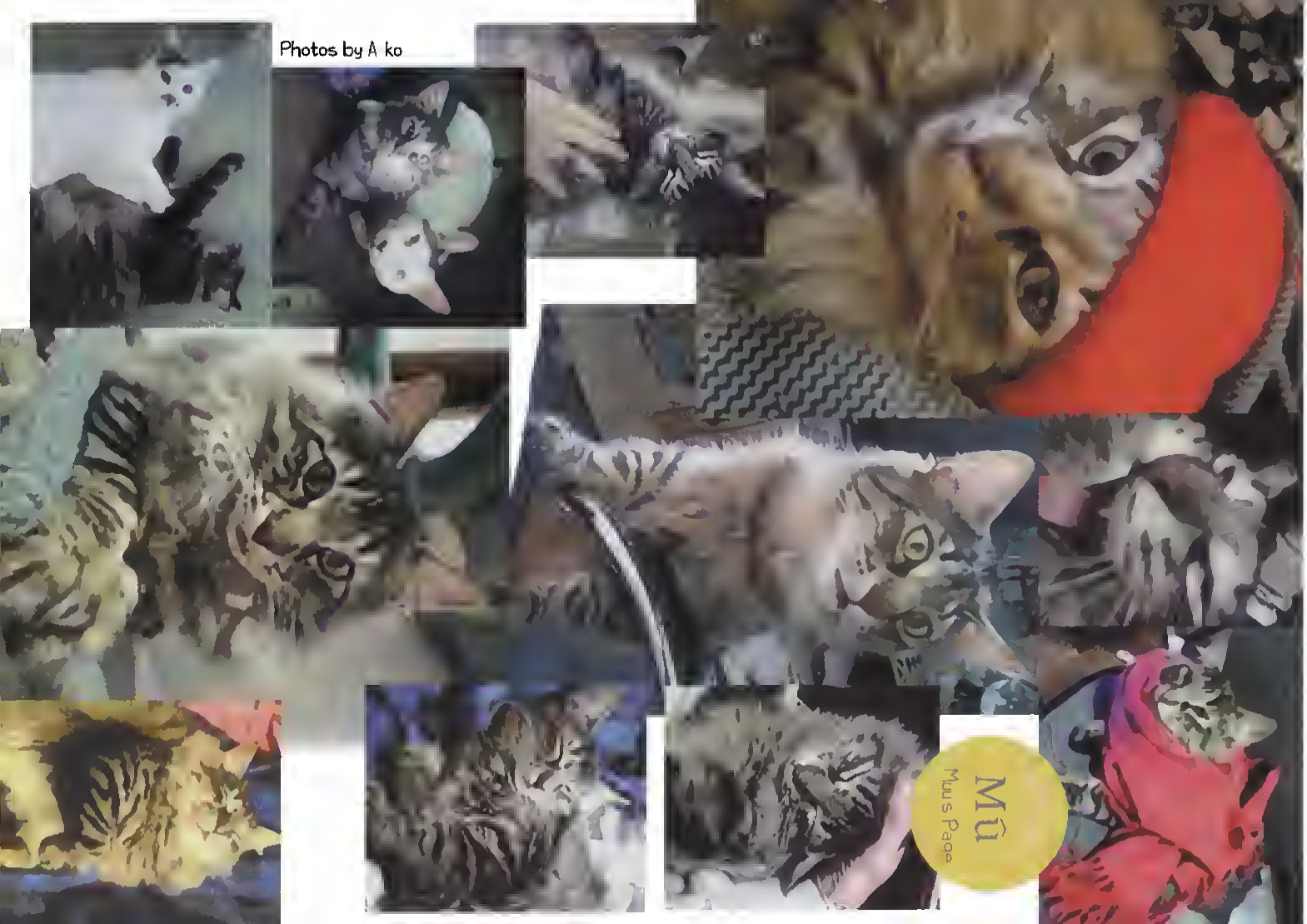
However, an hour passed and A-ko had not come out.
With the blessing of the plumber, A-ko locked herself inside the warehouse and tried to lure Yon out with some treats.
And so the war of attrition began.
IS HE STUCK BETWEEN THE WALLS? LET'S TRY HITTING THE WALLS AND SEE IF HE COMES OUT.
That's when the young husband from the plumbers came to our rescue
HEY, A-KO, HE STILL WON'T COME OUT?
ガ"ガ"
ガ"ガ"

HE WON'T COME OUT...
OKAY THEN, LET'S TAKE OUT THE WALL.
WHAT? REALLY? ARE YOU SURE!?
!!
ガタッ

YOU GOT HIM, J!

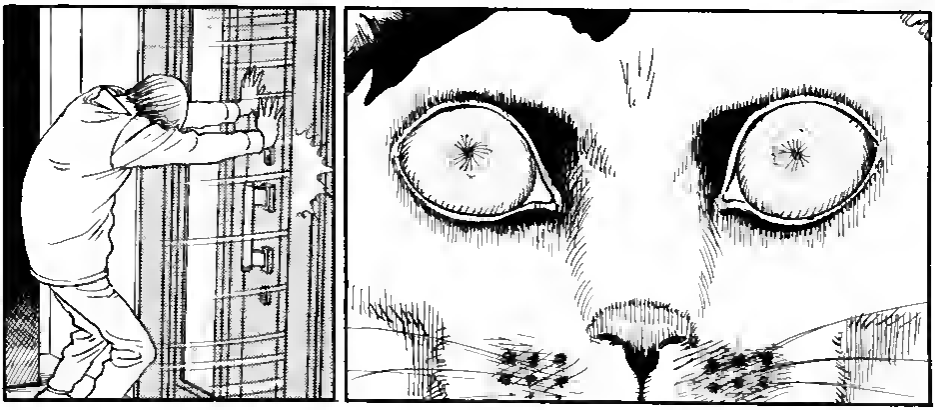
We really ended up causing a lot of trouble for the plumbers.
And so, Yon's attempt at making a great escape came to a conclusion!

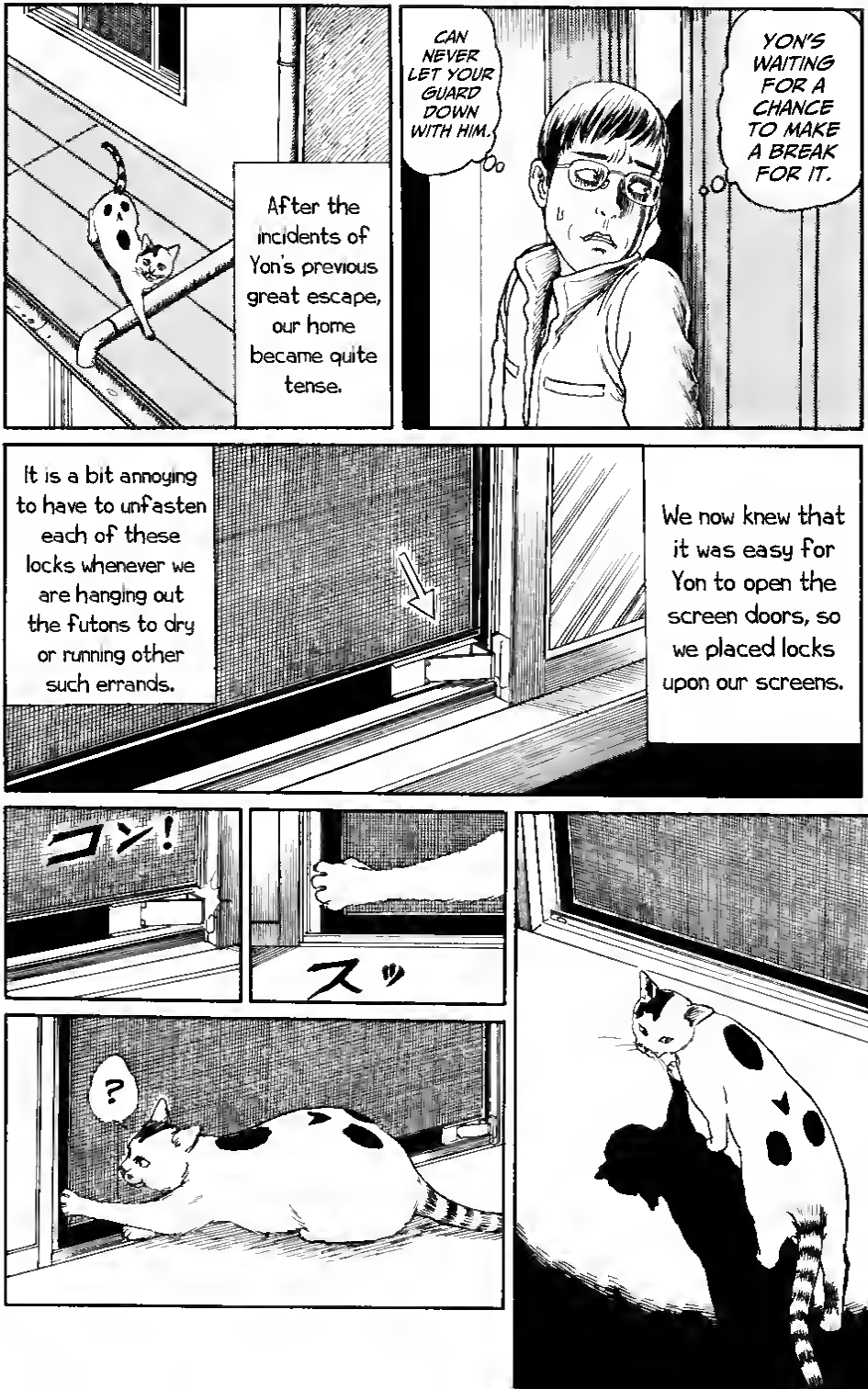

Yon
Yon's Page
Photos by A-ko


Photos by A ko
Mû
Mews Page

HNGH!
ギィィィィ
I'M HOMEEEE.
ガチャ

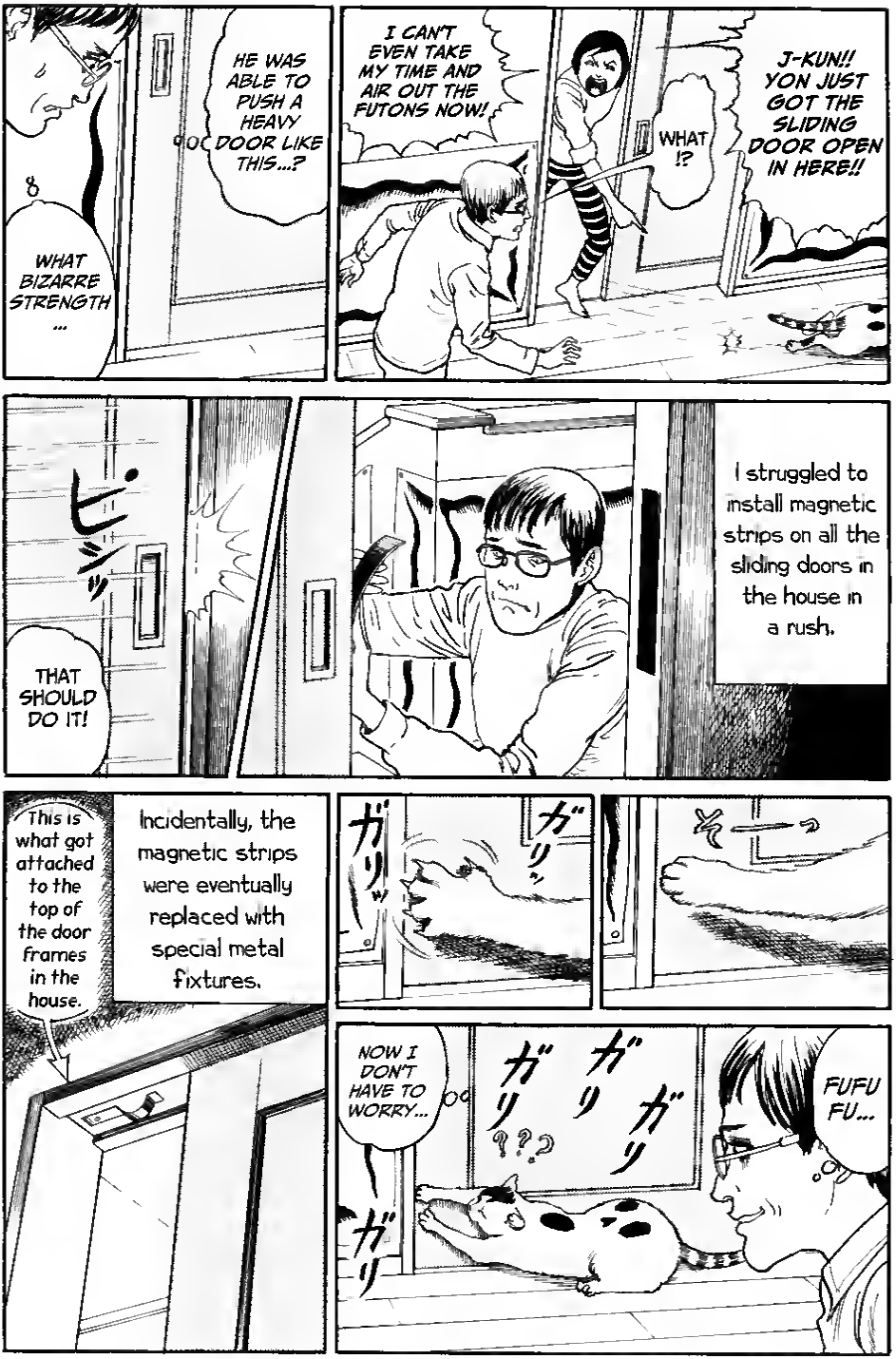
Chapter 07: King Yon

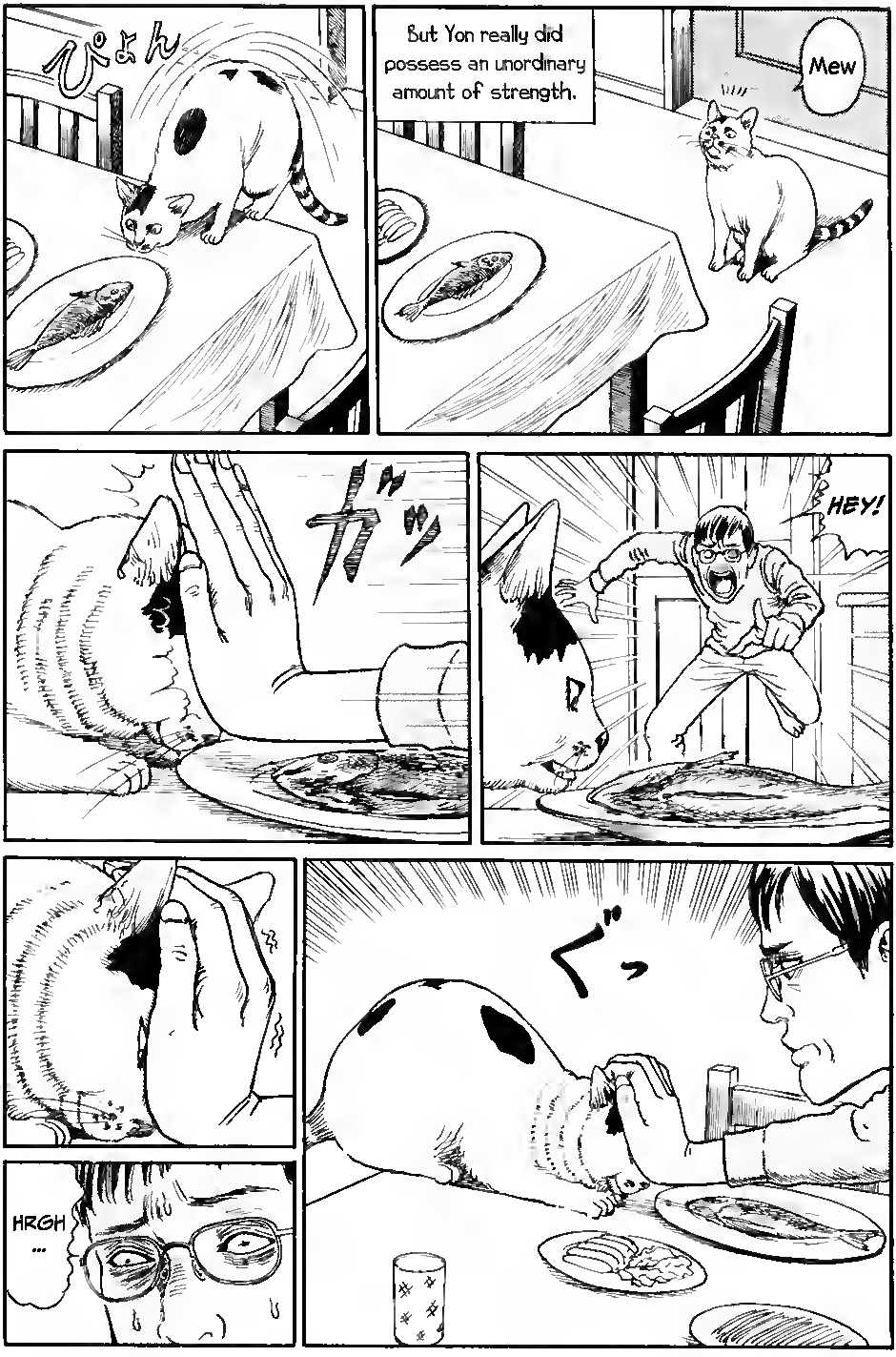



After the incidents of Yon's previous great escape, our home became quite tense.
CAN NEVER LET YOUR GUARD DOWN WITH HIM.
YON'S WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT.
It is a bit annoying to have to unfasten each of these locks whenever we are hanging out the futons to dry or running other such errands.
We now knew that it was easy for Yon to open the screen doors, so we placed locks upon our screens.
コン!
スッ
?

MUU HAS NEVER BEEN OUTSIDE ONCE IN HIS LIFE, SO HE HAS NO PLANS OF ESCAPING AT ALL.
ON THE OTHER HAND...
YON ESCAPED OUTSIDE PLENTY OF TIMES WHEN HE WAS BACK AT A-KON'S HOUSE...
???
HE KNOWS THE JOYS OF BEING OUTSIDE!
Ururururu
GOOD KITTY.
MUU IS SO PURE AND INNOCENT.
Purururu
OW!

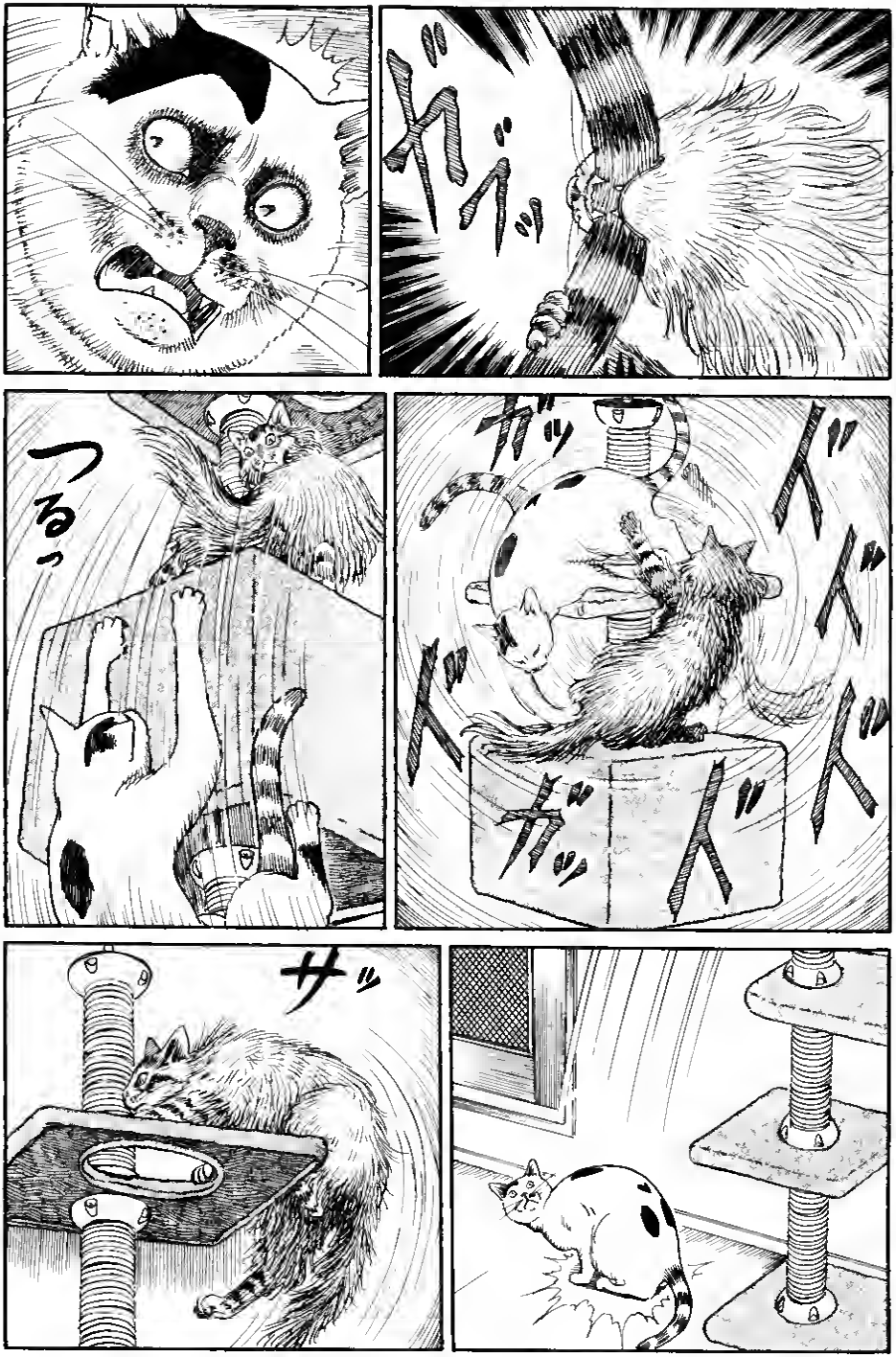
IT'S SO NICE OUT TODAY.
ガッ
ガッ
HM?
AGH!
ギューー
ガッ

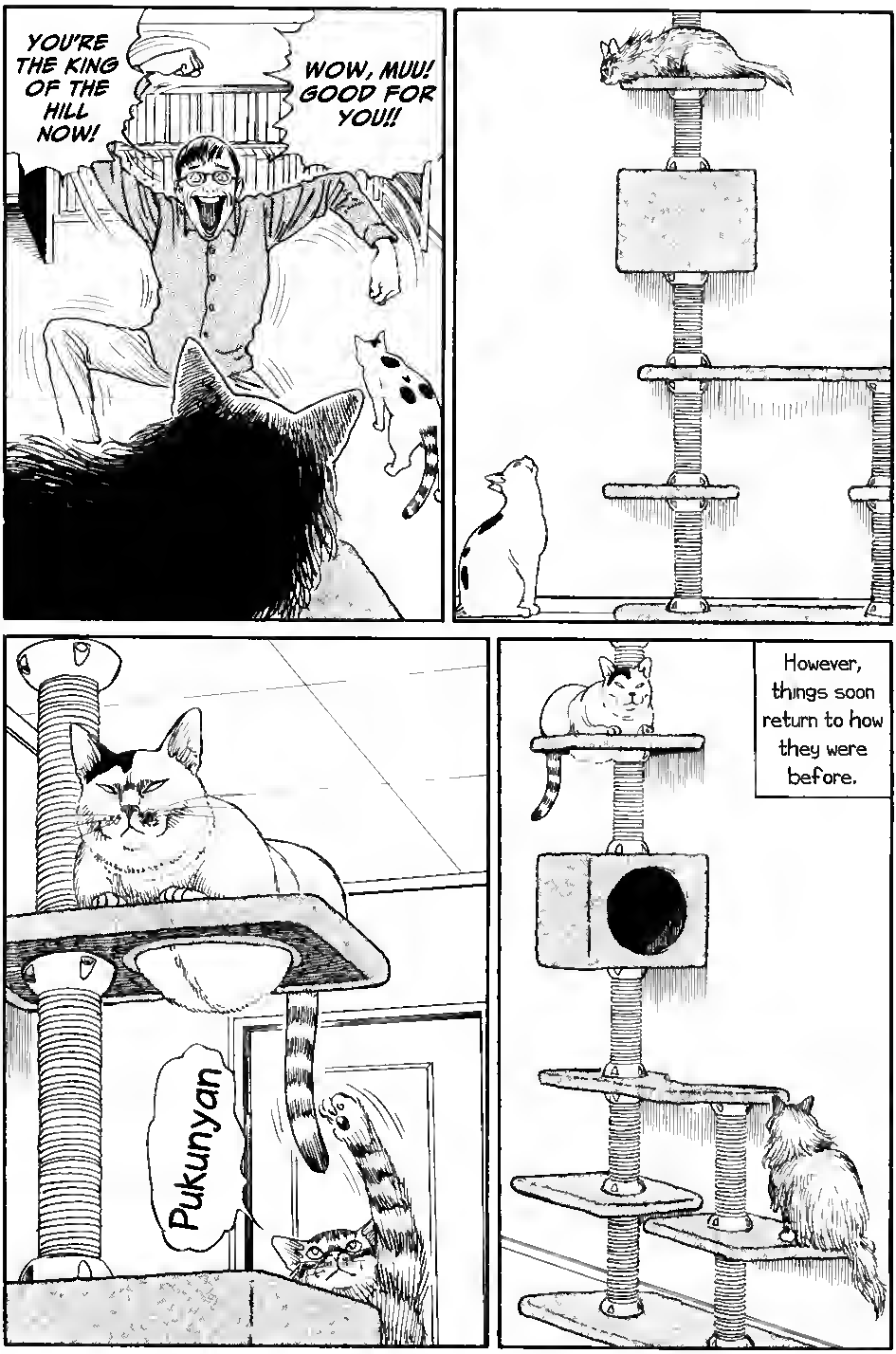

HE WAS ABLE TO PUSH A HEAVY DOOR LIKE THIS...?
WHAT BIZARRE STRENGTH ...
I CAN'T EVEN TAKE MY TIME AND AIR OUT THE FUTONS NOW!
WHAT !?
J-KUN!! YON JUST GOT THE SLIDING DOOR OPEN IN HERE!!
ピッ
THAT SHOULD DO IT!
I struggled to install magnetic strips on all the sliding doors in the house in a rush.
This is what got attached to the top of the door frames in the house.
Incidentally, the magnetic strips were eventually replaced with special metal fixtures.
ガリッ
ガリッ
そーっ
NOW I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY...
ガリ
ガリ
ガリ
ガリ
FUFU FU...


ぴょん
But Yon really did possess an unordinary amount of strength.
Mew
ガッ
HEY!
ぐっ
HRGH ...

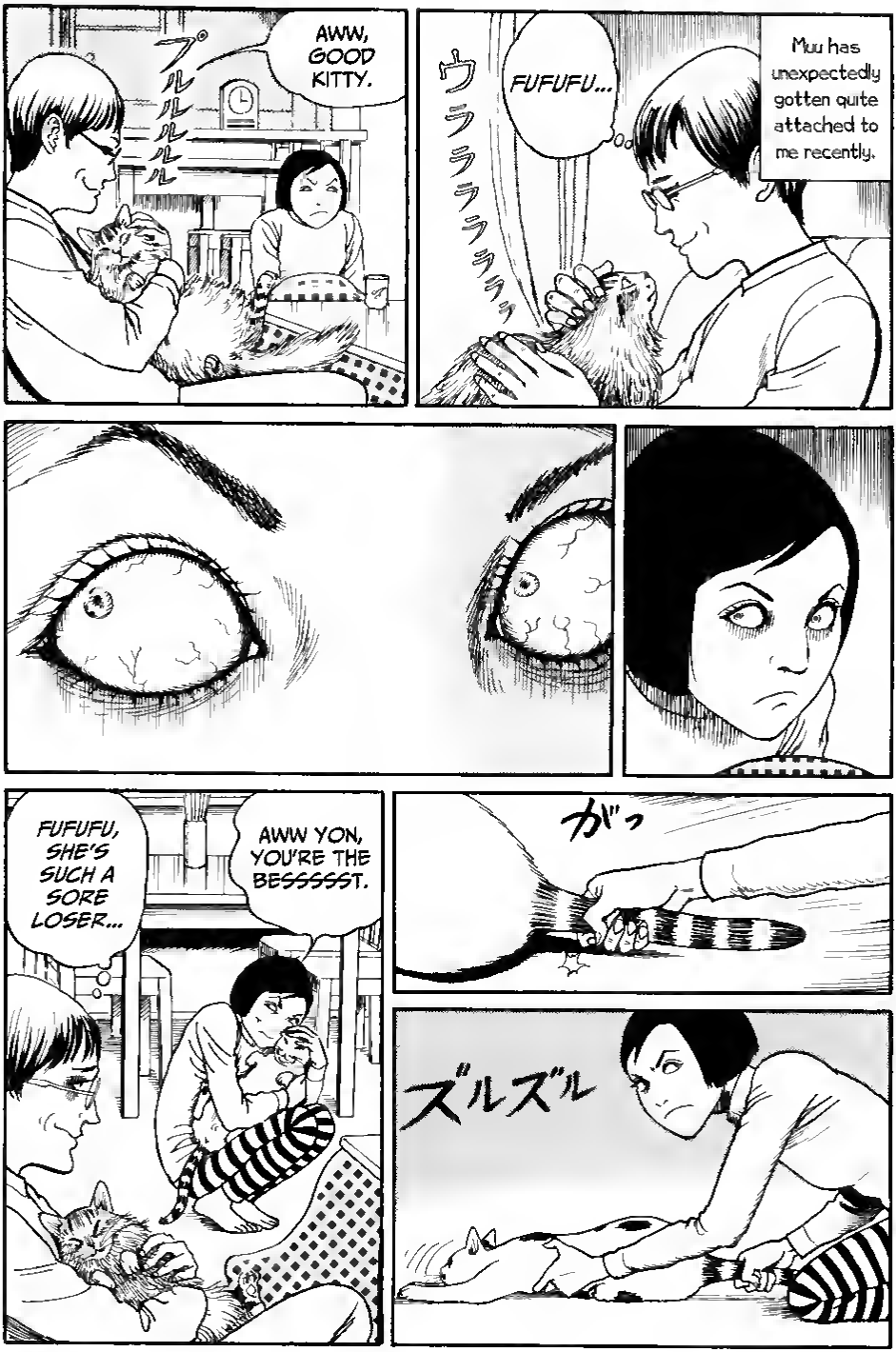
ぐぐぐ
ぐぐぐ
ぐぐぐ
FHH FHH
...I WON.
HFHH HFHH
ストン
っとっと

Our lord Yon controls the cat tower in the house.
Pururururu
Urarararara
ぴょん ぴょん
チョン チョン

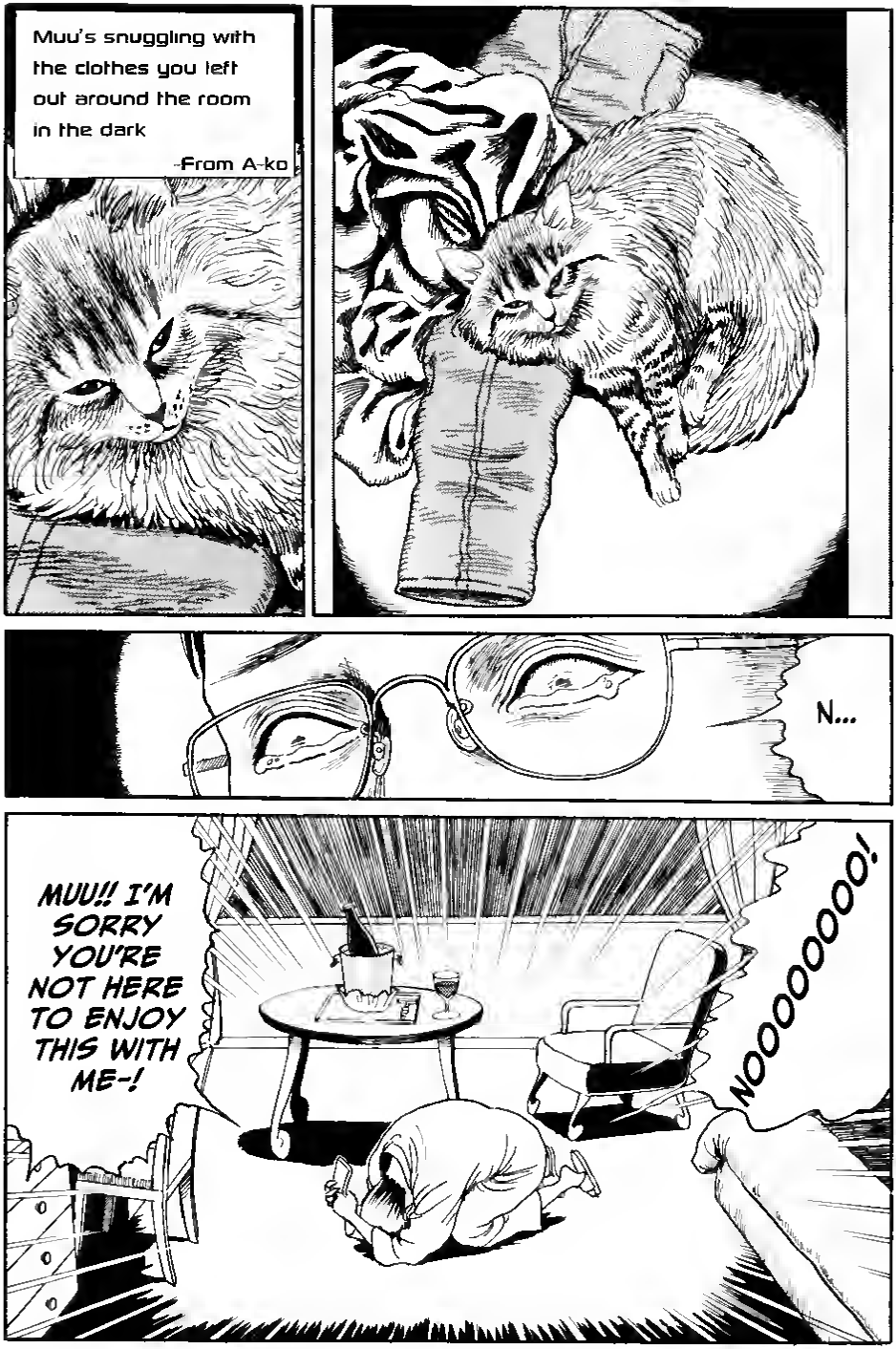

ガッ
ガッ
つるっ
ガッ
ドドド


YOU'RE THE KING OF THE HILL NOW!
WOW, MUU! GOOD FOR YOU!!
Pukunyan
However, things soon return to how they were before.

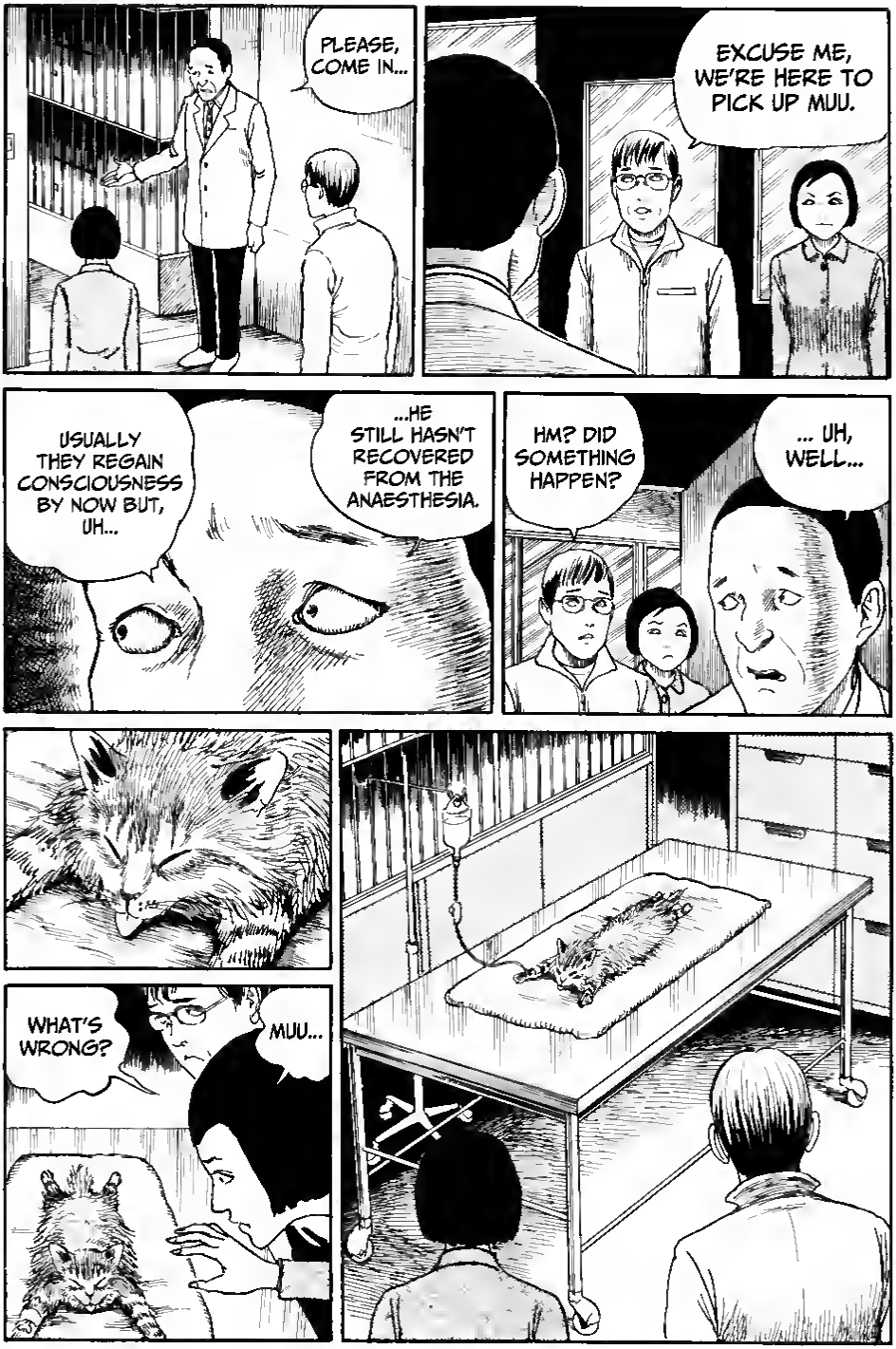
ぴょん
Purururu
Chapter 08: The Neutering of Mau
Purururu


プルルルル
AWW, GOOD KITTY.
ウラララララ
FUFUFU...
Muu has unexpectedly gotten quite attached to me recently.
FUFUFU, SHE'S SUCH A SORE LOSER...
AWW YON, YOU'RE THE BESSSSST.
がっ
ズルズル

The room that they had arranged for me to stay in was quite extravagant.
I was invited to Tokyo for business one day.
シャ
HM?
HM?
FUFUFU... A-KO WAS SO JEALOUS WHEN I SENT HER A PICTURE OF WHAT THE ROOM LOOKED LIKE...
OH? A-KO'S SENT ME ANOTHER PICTURE.
Mail from A-ko
SHE'S SUCH A SORE LOSER.


Muu's snuggling with the clothes you left out around the room in the dark
-From A-ko
N...
MUU!! I'M SORRY YOU'RE NOT HERE TO ENJOY THIS WITH ME-!
NOOOOOOOO!

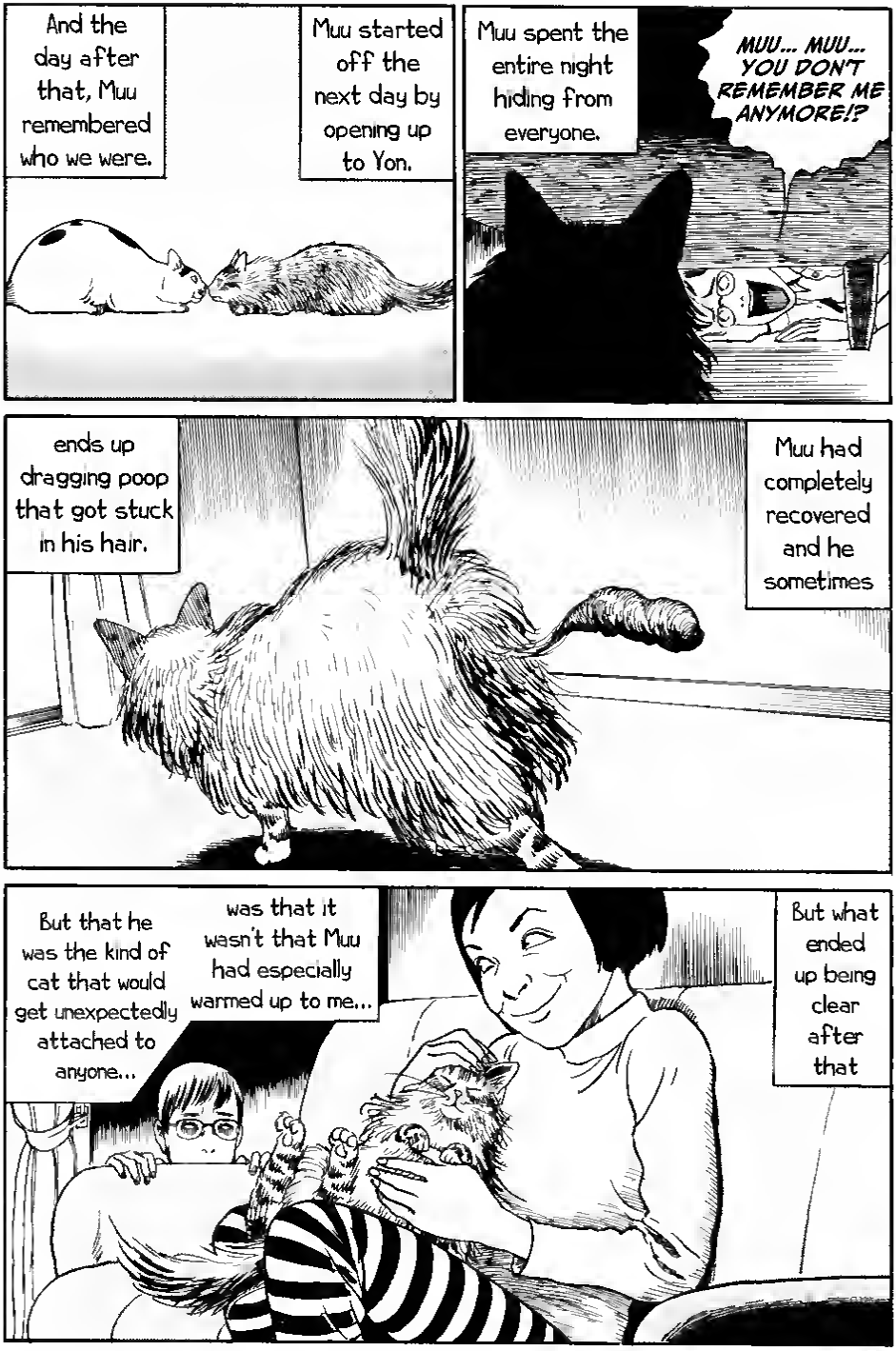
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HIM, DOCTOR.
We took Muu to the animal hospital in the city.
Then the time for Muu to be fixed finally came
友愛動物病院
WE'LL BE BACK IN THE EVENING TO PICK YOU UP, OKAY, MUU?
I WONDER IF THE SURGERY WENT OKAY.
We spent the entire day in a fog of uneasiness, and when it was finally evening, we drove to the hospital again.


PLEASE, COME IN...
EXCUSE ME, WE'RE HERE TO PICK UP MUU.
USUALLY THEY REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS BY NOW BUT, UH...
...HE STILL HASN'T RECOVERED FROM THE ANAESTHESIA.
HM? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
... UH, WELL...
WHAT'S WRONG?
MUU...

WE'LL KEEP HIM HERE FOR TONIGHT FOR OBSERVATION.
SOME TIMES THERE ARE CATS THAT END UP LIKE THIS.
SEE... HIS TONGUE IS WHITE, RIGHT? THAT MEANS HE WON'T BE WAKING UP FOR A WHILE...
WHY!?
HE'S NOT GOING TO DIE LIKE THIS, IS HE...!?
IS MUU EVER GOING TO WAKE UP?

I've decided on a name already.
He's my sixth cat so I want to call him Muu!
MUU...
Wow, he's so cute!
MUU...
Purururu
Muu's just too well behaved
You're so bad at this, J-kun.
MUU...
PLEASE DON'T DIE ON MEEEEEE!!
MUU...
MUU...

PLEASE, COME IN...
The next day...
ウィーン
Nyaaaaaa
HE CAN GO HOME NOW.
I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT WATCHING HIM AND HE FINALLY RECOVERED!
When we got back, he ran around the house still covered in pee.
On the way home in the car, he peed all over his carrier and got it all wet.
Perhaps it was because of the trauma from the surgery, but Muu had completely forgotten who we were and was terrified.


And the day after that, Muu remembered who we were.
Muu started off the next day by opening up to Yon.
Muu spent the entire night hiding from everyone.
MUU... MUU... YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME ANYMORE!?
ends up dragging poop that got stuck in his hair.
Muu had completely recovered and he sometimes
But that he was the kind of cat that would get unexpectedly attached to anyone...
was that it wasn't that Muu had especially warmed up to me...
But what ended up being clear after that

Q & A with J-Sensei!

Question.5

A-ko is always drawn with extremely cold eyes. Doesn't the actual person, your wife, ever get mad at you about this?

Answer.

She does. She also doesn't like the way her hair looks. She cut out a bunch of the images where she wasn't satisfied with the way her cheeks were depicted and told me to get rid of a bunch of "unnecessary" lines as well. She's also pointed out before that she doesn't wear the striped leggings that have become her trademark. But as far as things go with the manga, she's really not that annoyed about it as she acts.

Q & A with J-Sensei!

Question.6

Whenever cats used to make an appearance in your older works, they always seemed quite scary. However, one day one of the cats on your personal works was drawn very cutely, and the characteristics were captured well. Your manager, who was probably a cat person, must've noticed that and come to the conclusion that you got a cat. That probably was the beginning of how you ended up drawing a manga about cats, right? Have you fully converted from the doctrines of team dogs to those of team cats?

Answer.

Indeed, I may now be one of the many converts. When I was a child, I used to see feral cats around the street corners, I didn't really liked the way they looked at me and it left me with a really bad impression. Now that I've lived with some for a while, I've even started to think that the way they stare at me is cute. I've had all sorts of experiences while living together with these cats. Just when I was thinking that I could probably make a manga about it, my manager wanted to talk to me about drawing something like that. I am always amazed at how perceptive my manager is.

I felt the presence of something inside...
When we went to visit A-ko's house in Chiba,
Chapter 09: Unidentified Creature
WHA-!
SOMETHING... SOMETHING WAS THERE...
SOMETHING'S INSIDE THIS HOUSE!!

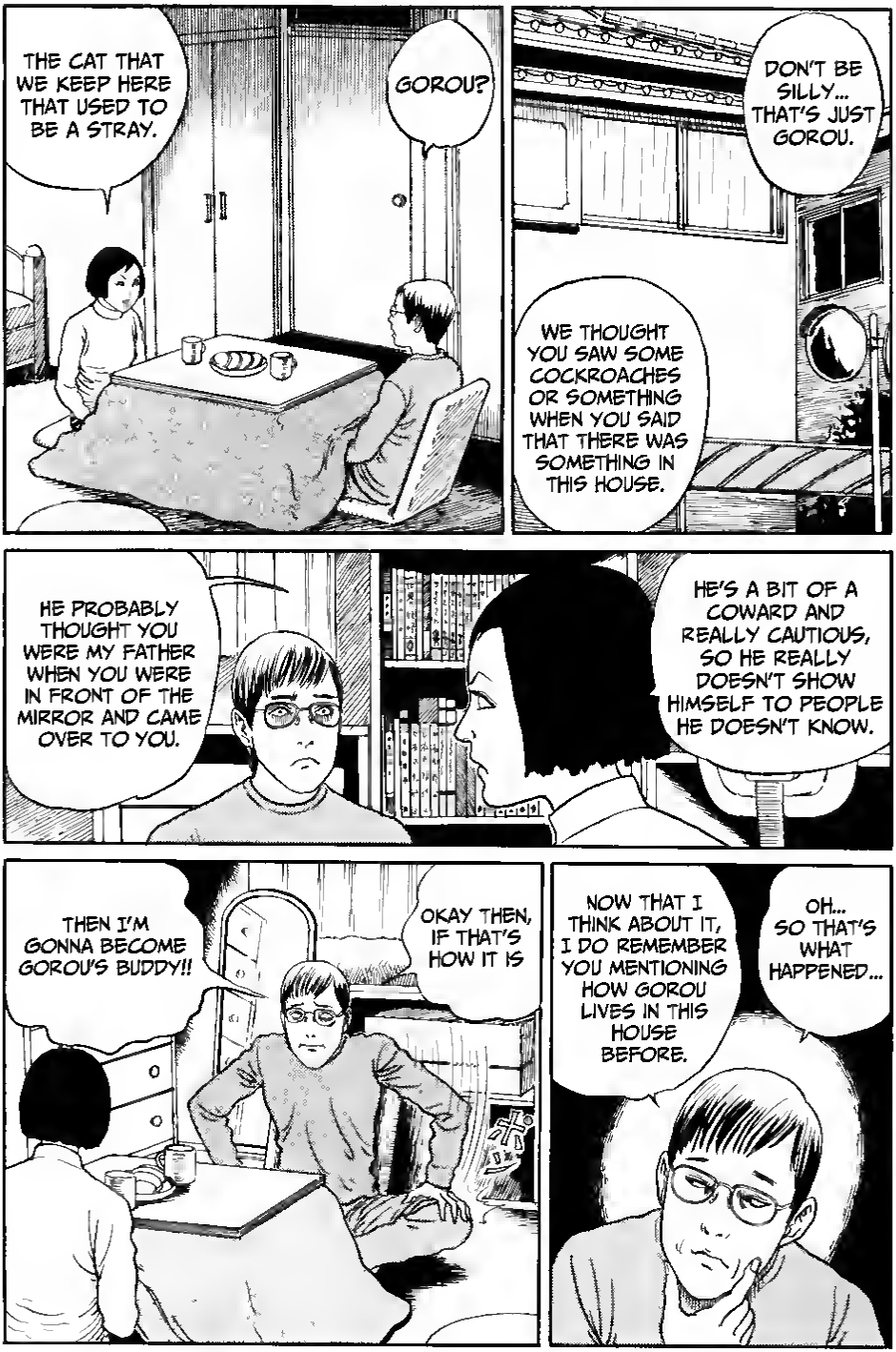
ワハハハハハ
Father-in-law
ガヤガヤ
ワイワイ
Mother-in-law
オホホホホ
*The horror mangaka became a member of the family
I WAS WONDERING, MOM,
...OH, BY THE WAY, DAD,
ワハハハハハ
HUH...?
INSIDE THIS HOUSE, RIGHT?
THERE'S SOMETHING...

...
...
THERE'S SOME SECRET THEY'RE HIDING INSIDE THIS HOUSE...
ガヤ ガヤ
ワイ ワイ
!
ギッ

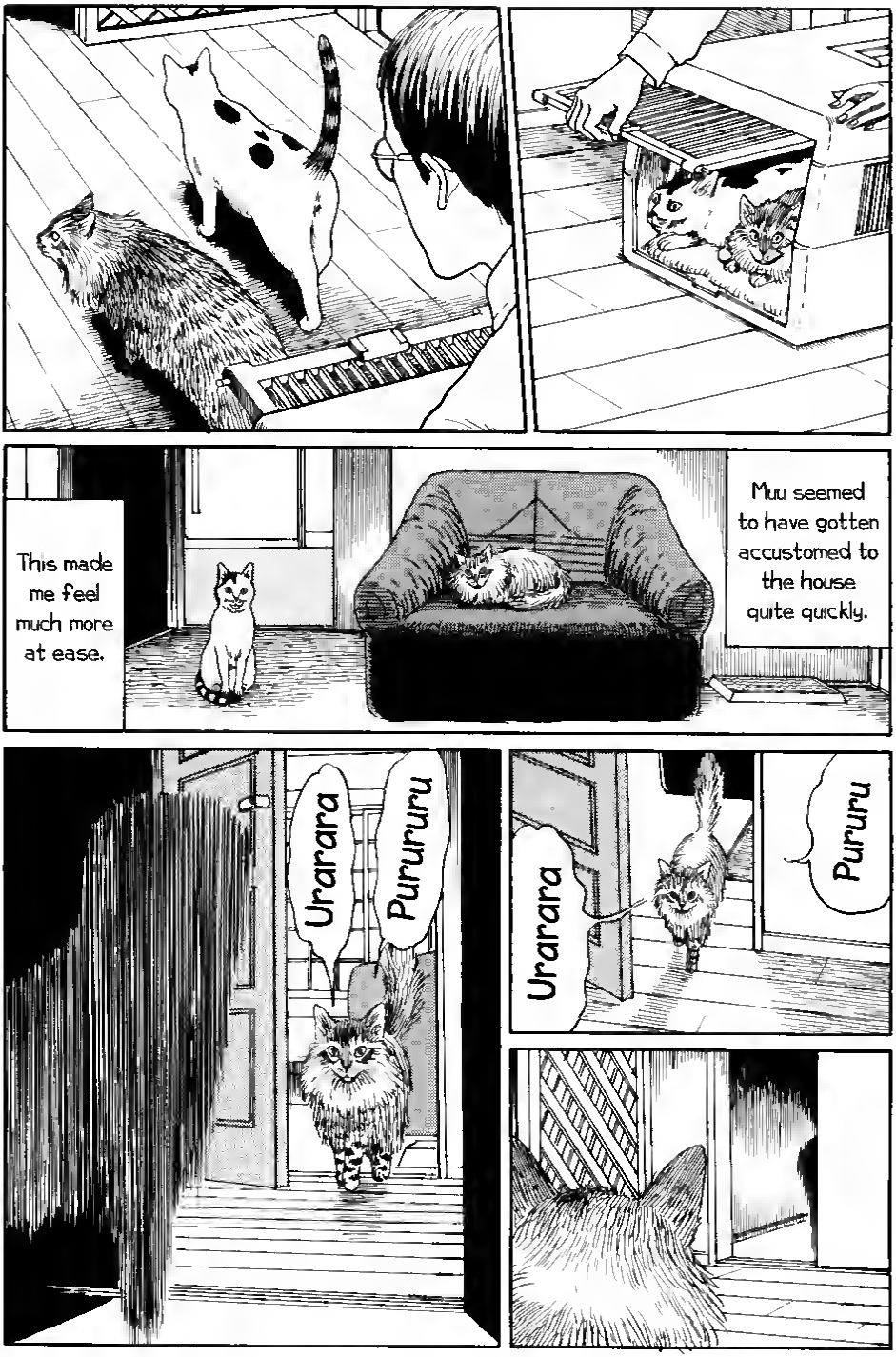
ゴクリ
サササササ

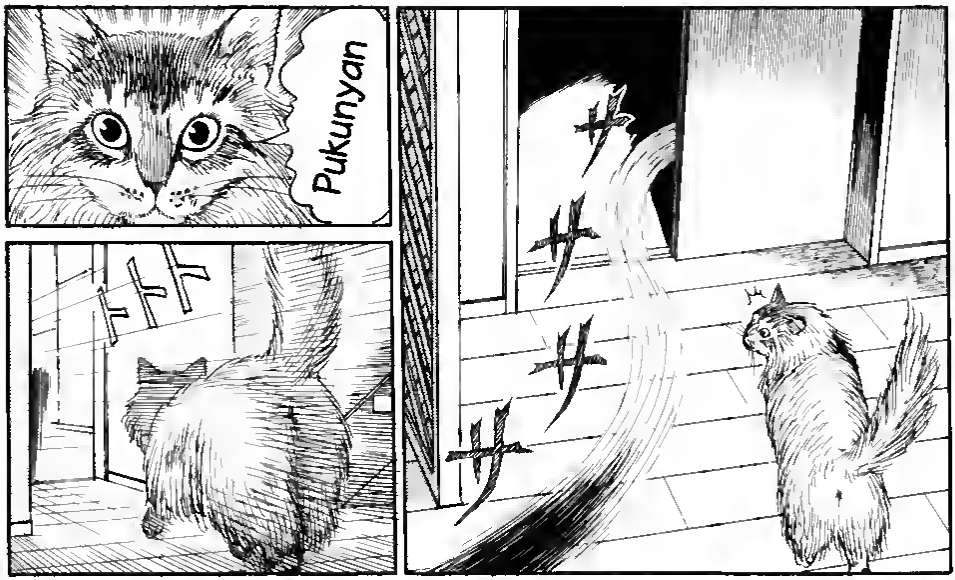
Pinyaaaaaa
Pinyaaaaaa
HM?
And then, when I was brushing my teeth in front of the wash basin in the middle of one night...
Pinyaaaaaa
Pinyaaaaaaa
!?
Pinyaaaaaaa
...WHAT IS THAT SOUND?
IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE IT'S OF THIS WORLD...

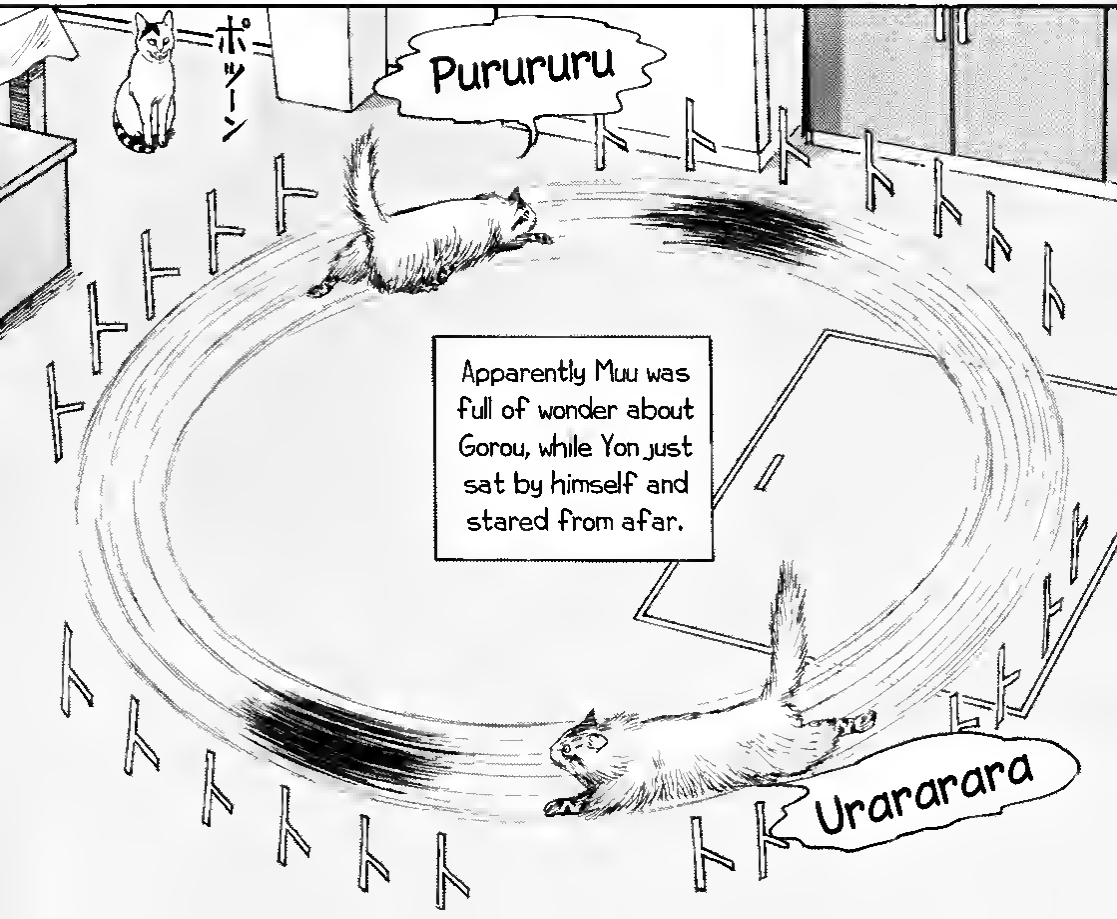
Pinyaaaaaa
Pinyaaaaaa
GYAAAAAH!
I SAW IT!
A GHOST!

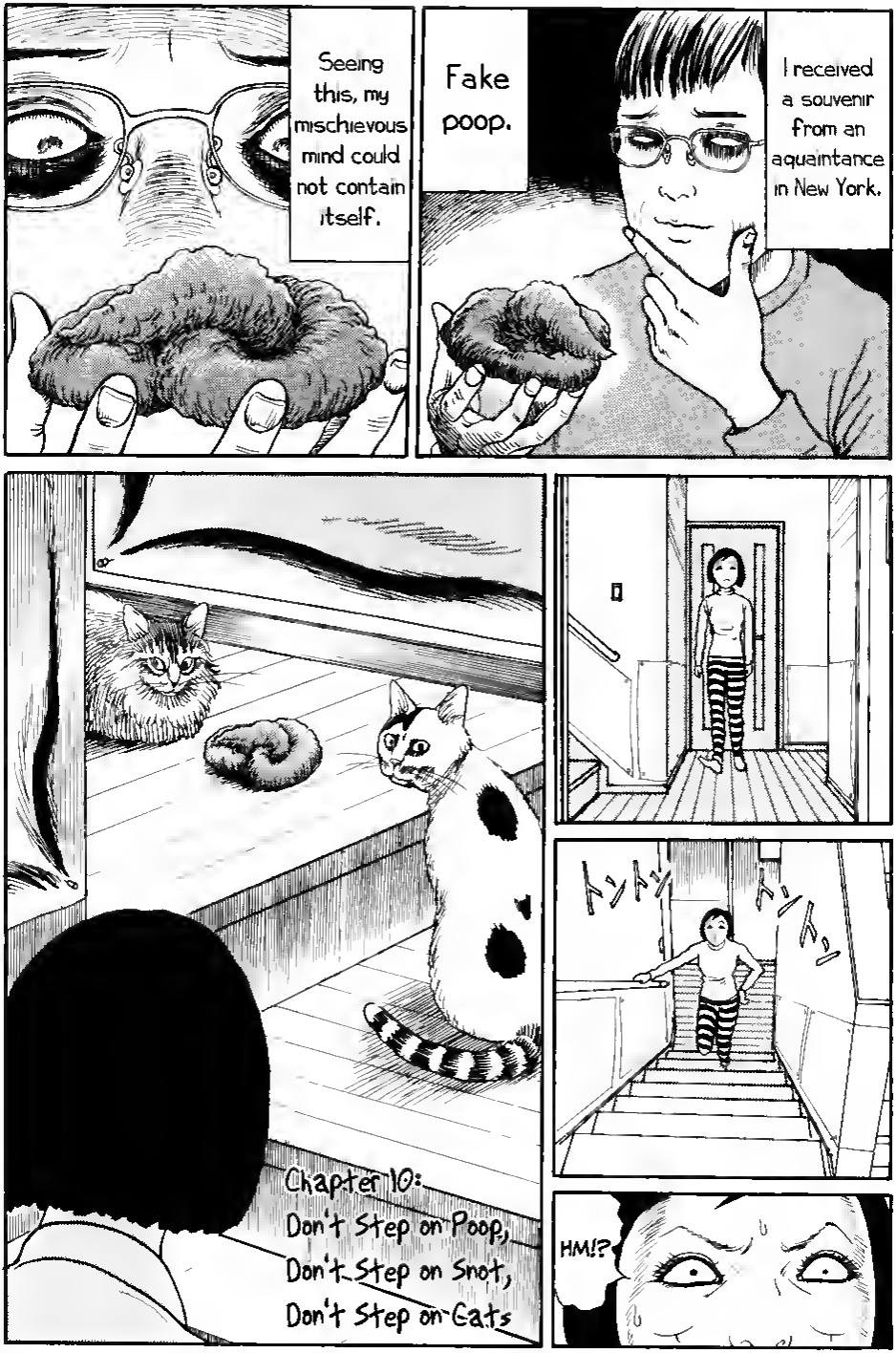

THE CAT THAT WE KEEP HERE THAT USED TO BE A STRAY.
GOROU?
DON'T BE SILLY... THAT'S JUST GOROU.
WE THOUGHT YOU SAW SOME COCKROACHES OR SOMETHING WHEN YOU SAID THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THIS HOUSE.
HE PROBABLY THOUGHT YOU WERE MY FATHER WHEN YOU WERE IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR AND CAME OVER TO YOU.
HE'S A BIT OF A COWARD AND REALLY CAUTIOUS, SO HE REALLY DOESN'T SHOW HIMSELF TO PEOPLE HE DOESN'T KNOW.
THEN I'M GONNA BECOME GOROU'S BUDDY!!
OKAY THEN, IF THAT'S HOW IT IS
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I DO REMEMBER YOU MENTIONING HOW GOROU LIVES IN THIS HOUSE BEFORE.
OH... SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...

GOROU-CHAN, GOROU GOROU GOROU-CHAAAAN!
GOROU... COME OUT WHERE EVER YOU ARE...
And I hadn't seen Gorou appear since.
...More than a year has passed since that happened...
We brought Yon and Muu together with us.
Then... recently we stayed at A-ko's house for about a month because of A-ko's job.
Would Muu end up all right in a place he wasn't used to...?
For Yon it wasn't anything extraordinary, but for Muu it would be his first time going to Chiba.


This made me feel much more at ease.
Muu seemed to have gotten accustomed to the house quite quickly.
Purururu
Urarara
Purururu
Urarara


Pukunyan


ポヅーン
Purururu
Apparently Muu was full of wonder about Gorou, while Yon just sat by himself and stared from afar.
Urararara


Seeing this, my mischievous mind could not contain itself.
Fake poop.
I received a souvenir from an aquaintance in New York.
Chapter 10:
Don't Step on Poop,
Don't Step on Snot,
Don't Step on Cats
トントン
ドントン
HM!?

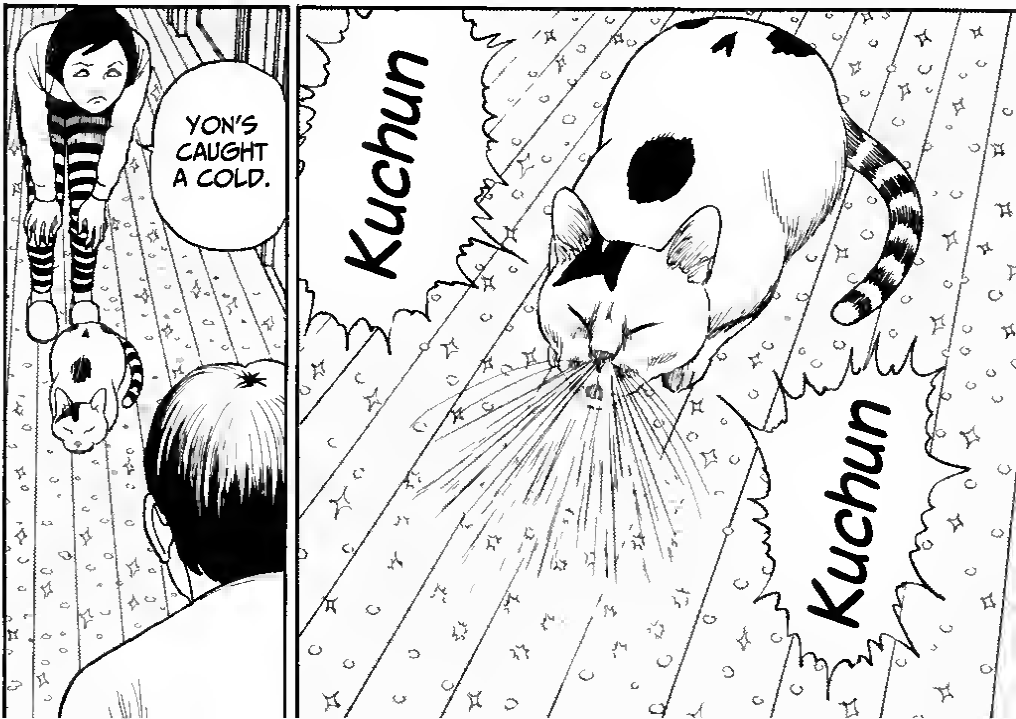
D... DON'T COME UP HERE, THE KITTIES HAD A LITTLE ACCIDENT!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, A-CHAN?
AHHHHH!!
OH, DID THEY POOP...?
LOOK, J-KUN!
WHAT'S WRONG?
AHHHH!
ポイ
HERE.
ｶﾞｯ
UGH!

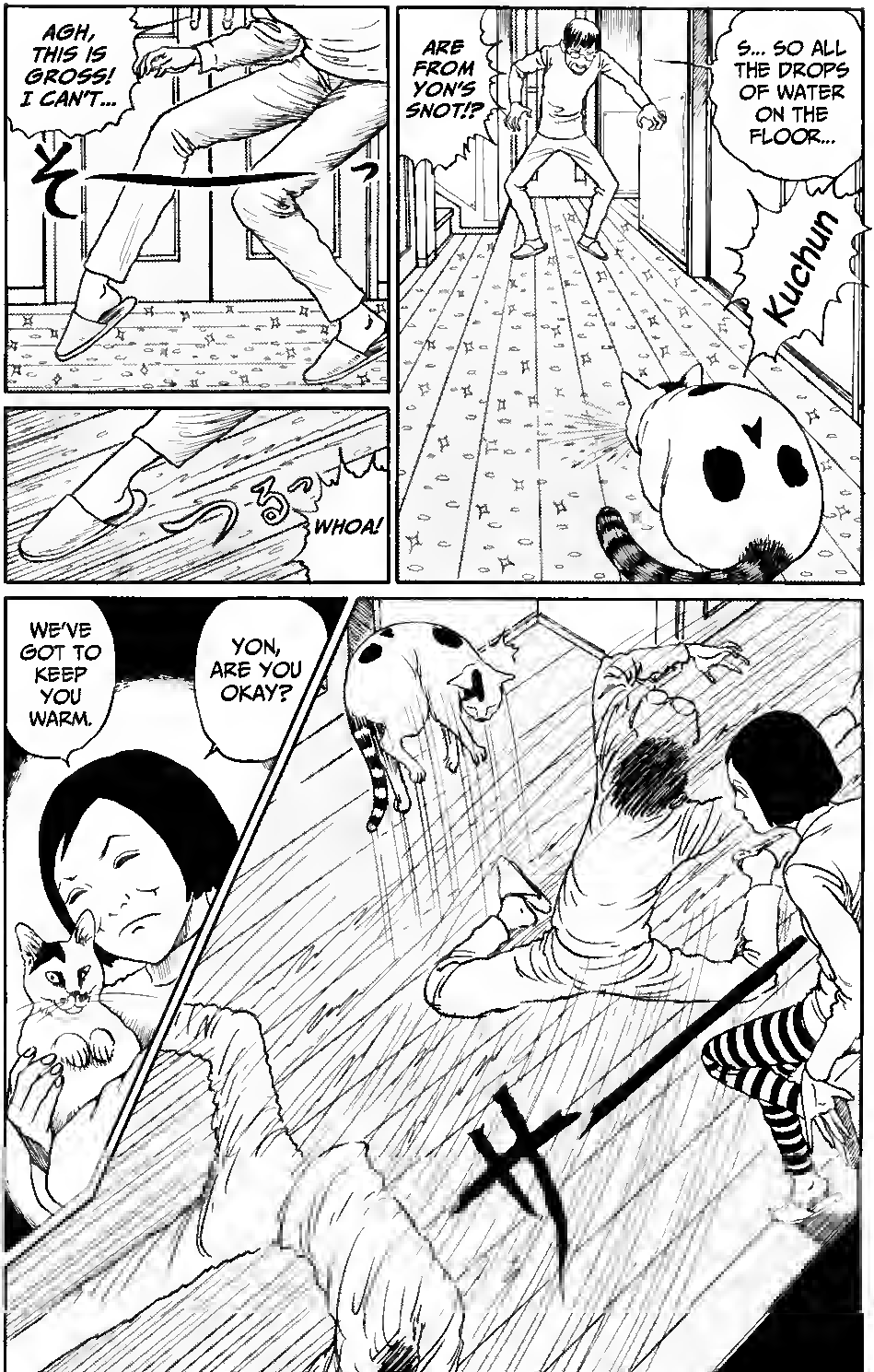
うはははは
WHAT? IS IT JUST A TOY? YOU PLANNED THIS ALL OUT, DIDN'T YOU, J!?
コト
HM?
ガチャ
Some days later
UGH-CK!
HMMM, A-KO MUST BE TRYING TO GET EVEN...
WHAT'S THIS DOING HERE?
クチュ

IT'S PUKE.
THAT'S NOT POOP.
THAT WAS REAL!
THAT WAS REAL CAT SHIT!
UWAHHH!
WE'VE GOT TO CONTROL HIS DIET.
YON MUST'VE EATEN TOO MUCH AND THROWN UP.
YON ONLY EATS WHAT HE'S FED.
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
UHAHAHAHAA!

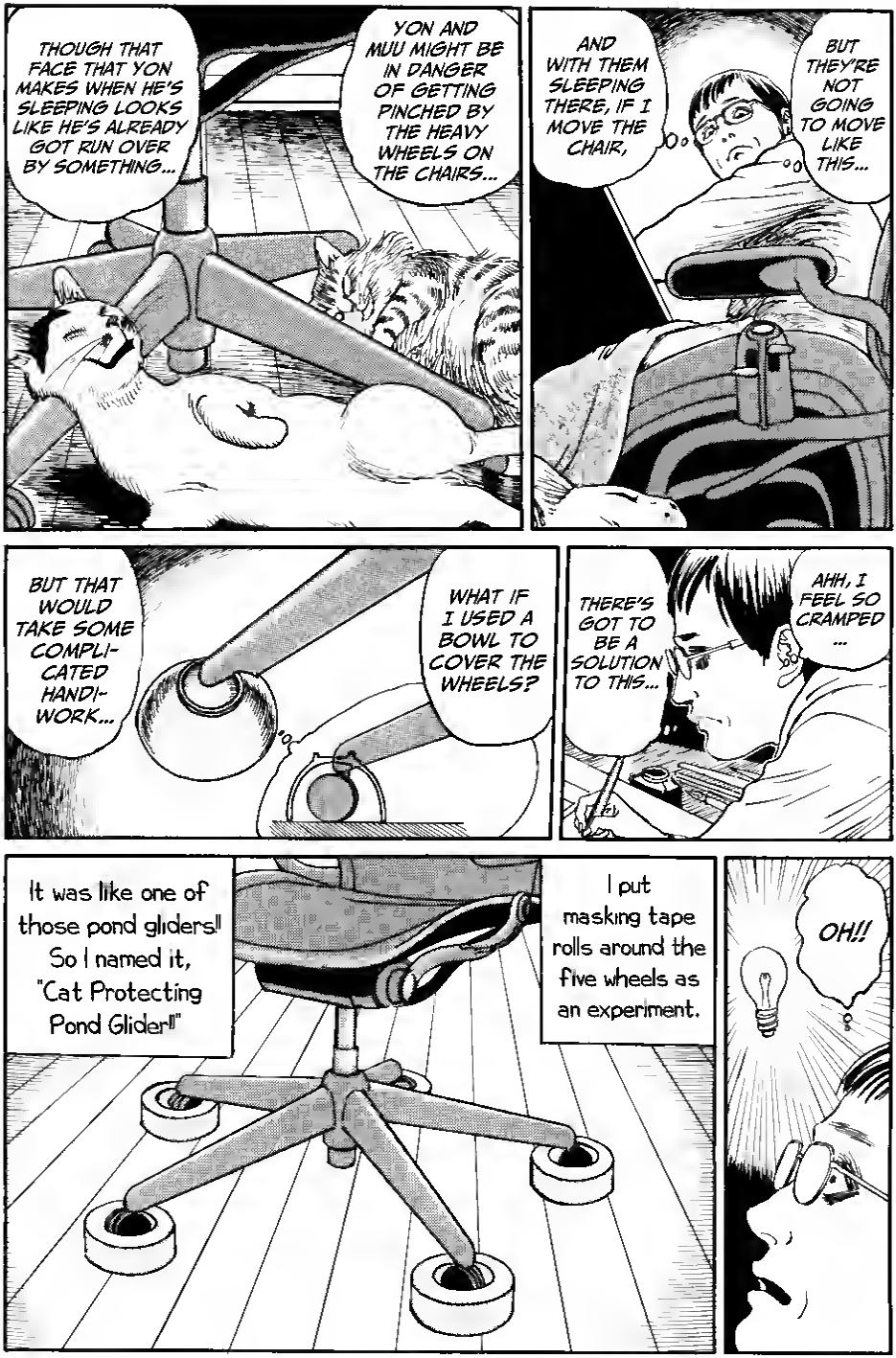
ムシャムシャ
ムシャムシャ
So A-ko is still very cautious when it comes to his health.
When Yon was a kitten, he was quite weak and got sick often.
YON!! DON'T EAT MUU'S PORTION!!
ガツガツ
ガツガツ

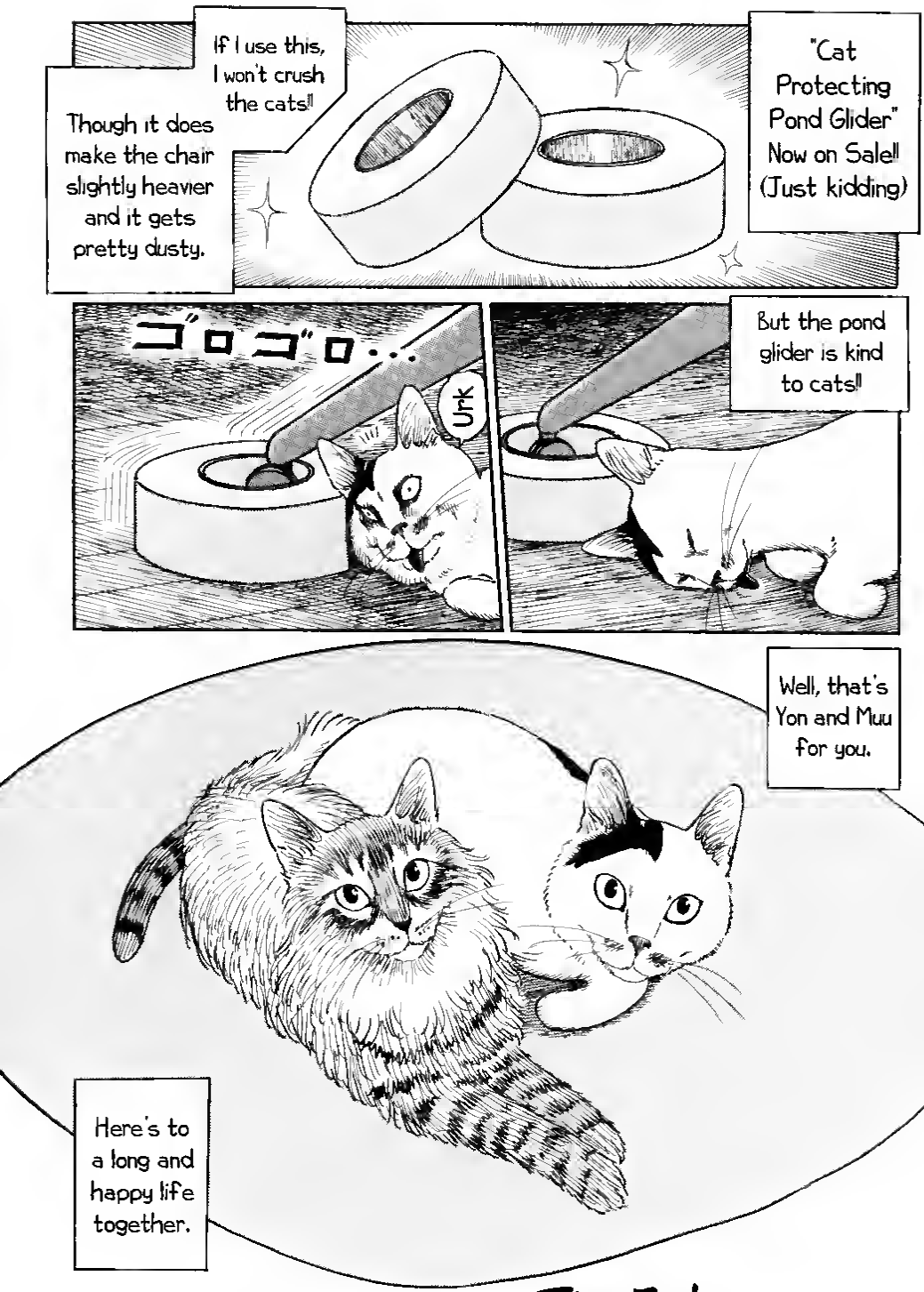
On a cold winter night in the suburbs of X city...
OHH, IT'S SO COLD.
HM? THERE'S SOMETHING SHINING ON THE FLOOR...
IS IT FROST OR SOMETHING?
YEAH, RIGHT... WHY WOULD THERE BE FROST INSIDE THE HOUSE.
THIS IS...
A LIQUID ...
KU!!
WHA-!?


YON'S CAUGHT A COLD.
Kuchun
Kuchun

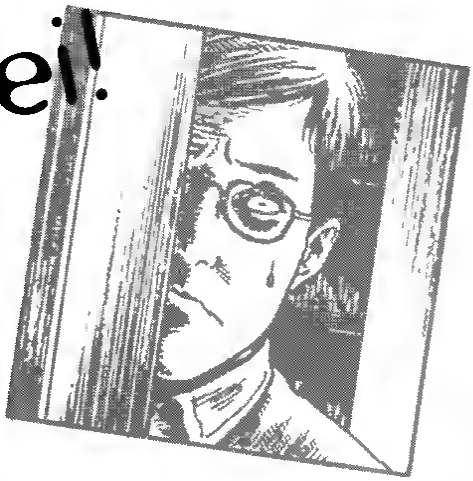

AGH, THIS IS GROSS! I CAN'T...
WHOA!
ARE FROM YON'S SNOT!?
S... SO ALL THE DROPS OF WATER ON THE FLOOR...
Kuchun
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP YOU WARM.
YON, ARE YOU OKAY?

And under me are...
I've got a towel on my shoulders, a blanket on my lap
and an electric carpet for my feet.
The room where I do all my work too is warm since I'm sensitive to the cold. . The air conditioner is on the wall...
and the electric heater is behind me.
Yon
and Muu.
Yon looks weird even when he's sleeping.


THOUGH THAT FACE THAT YON MAKES WHEN HE'S SLEEPING LOOKS LIKE HE'S ALREADY GOT RUN OVER BY SOMETHING...
YON AND MUU MIGHT BE IN DANGER OF GETTING PINCHED BY THE HEAVY WHEELS ON THE CHAIRS...
AND WITH THEM SLEEPING THERE, IF I MOVE THE CHAIR,
BUT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO MOVE LIKE THIS...
BUT THAT WOULD TAKE SOME COMPLI-CATED HANDI-WORK...
WHAT IF I USED A BOWL TO COVER THE WHEELS?
THERE'S GOT TO BE A SOLUTION TO THIS...
AHH, I FEEL SO CRAMPED ...
It was like one of those pond gliders!! So I named it, "Cat Protecting Pond Glider!"
I put masking tape rolls around the five wheels as an experiment.
OH!!


If I use this, I won't crush the cats!!
Though it does make the chair slightly heavier and it gets pretty dusty.
"Cat Protecting Pond Glider" Now on Sale!! (Just kidding)
ゴロゴロ・・・
Urk
But the pond glider is kind to cats!!
Well, that's Yon and Muu for you.
Here's to a long and happy life together.
The End.

Q & A with J-Sensei!



Question.7

Now your main job is as a horror Mangaka, but is it true that you used to draw a lot of gag manga before your professional debut?

Answer.

When I drew as a hobby, I drew both horror and gag comics. I had all sorts of original characters that I created during my elementary schooldays for my gag comics like "Big Dummy," "Pose Boy," and "Little Dummy." There were plenty of times where I'd get sick of works that started off originally as horror manga and they'd end up as gag manga in the second half.

Q & A with J-Sensei!

Question.8

This year (2009) marks the twenty-second year in your life as a Mangaka. Please tell us your goals for the future as you approach the twenty-fifth anniversary of your debut.

Answer.

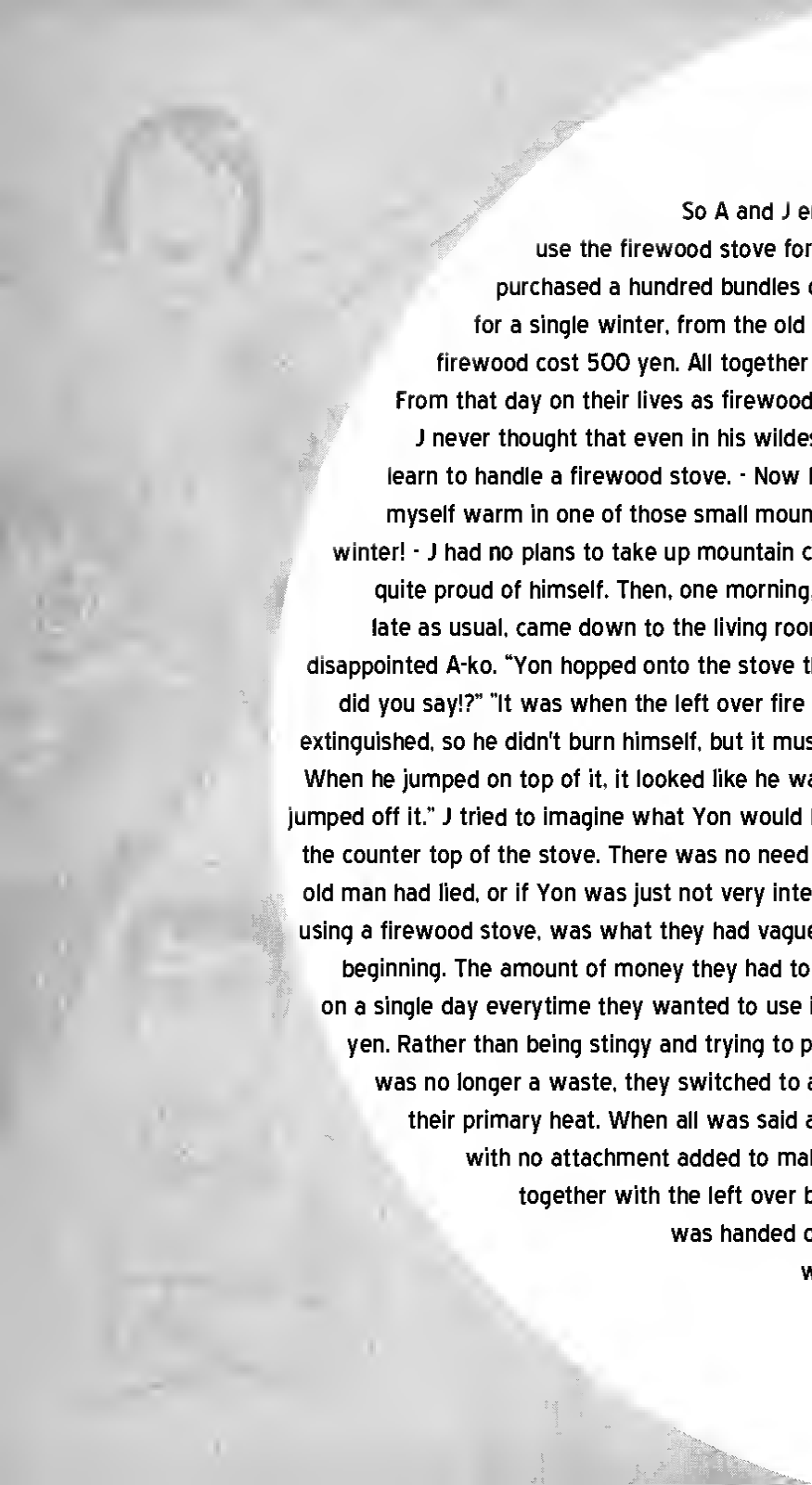
I plan to continue working hard as I have up until now. However, if I had to name one practical goal I have, I would like to turn one of the stories that I had written for a video game in the past into a manga. Thanks to everyone who's read my works and I hope you all continue to support me.

Afterword

After J and A-ko became legally married, they moved into a second-hand home in the same city along with the cats. In that house there was an overbearing sooty firewood stove placed in the middle of the living room atrium and a wide set of stairs that looked like it belonged on a set of a broadway show. It was a bit of a quirky house. An atrium in a cold area nestled in the mountains like the one they lived in meant that the house arrangement was specifically made with the placement of a firewood stove in mind. However, J did not know anything about the methods of operating a firewood stove. And, with a stove like that, it would be dangerous if the cats jumped on top of it. Also, if he ever had children, he was worried that they might burn themselves. So, with that in mind, it was decided that the firewood stove would be disposed of. When he called the retailer of the firewood stove in order to ask about how to dispose of the firewood stove, the representative would come teach him how to use it. J repeated, "No, no, I want to get rid of it." The representative replied, "Well, the stove itself is worth seven hundred thousand and build to last a lifetime, to dispose it will cost a hundred thousand yen, so why don't you use it once and think it over?" A few days later an old man, a representative of the retailer came, fixed the broken passage without being asked to, and covered the stained exterior with a black spray, making it look brand new.

Itou Junji

He threw in some firewood, and ignited it with some newspaper he had lit on fire. With the pleasant sound of crackling fire, the room began to gradually warm up. "Firewood stoves give off this infared heat and warms the body from the inside. After I spend time in front of a firewood stove, I can go outside and shovel snow for two hours and still not feel cold." The old man really gave off this impression that this was something he was passionate about and sat down on the floor in front of the stove. "People that really appreciate these firewood stoves, they all sit together like this in front of the stove in a circle and talk together," the old man said as he smiled, looking like he was enjoying himself. "If you make it so that you can cook on top of the counter of the stove, I'm sure your wife will be quite pleased." The old man took note of A-ko's expression of interest in this pleasantly as he added some more firewood. After some hesitation, J finally voiced his concerns. "But we have cats with us in our house..." Yon and Muu had been hiding on the second floor of the house since the old man had arrived. "Hahaha. The cats won't hop on top of the stove. They're intelligent creatures. I've been handling firewood stoves for some decades and I've never heard once of a cat hopping on top of one of these stoves. ...Huh? You're worried that when you have children they might burn themselves? Hahaha. Well, if that's the case they sell a barrier specifically for that, if you need it you can contact me and I'll bring it over right away." While they listened to the old man explain these things, the stove began to finally grow red and burn bright, engulfing the room with a gentle warmth and the nostalgic smell of burning firewood.



So A and J ended up deciding to use the firewood stove for the time being and purchased a hundred bundles of firewood, enough for a single winter, from the old man. One bundle of firewood cost 500 yen. All together it was 50,000 yen. From that day on their lives as firewood stove users began. J never thought that even in his wildest dreams he would learn to handle a firewood stove. - Now I know how to keep myself warm in one of those small mountain cottages in the winter! - J had no plans to take up mountain climbing, but he was quite proud of himself. Then, one morning, when J, waking up late as usual, came down to the living room, he was met by a disappointed A-ko. "Yon hopped onto the stove this morning." "What did you say!?" "It was when the left over fire from yesterday had extinguished, so he didn't burn himself, but it must've been fairly hot. When he jumped on top of it, it looked like he was dancing and then jumped off it." J tried to imagine what Yon would look like dancing on the counter top of the stove. There was no need to distinguish if the old man had lied, or if Yon was just not very intelligent. The costs of using a firewood stove, was what they had vaguely suspected in the beginning. The amount of money they had to spend for firewood on a single day everytime they wanted to use it was at least 1500 yen. Rather than being stingy and trying to put up with it until it was no longer a waste, they switched to a kerosene stove as their primary heat. When all was said and done, the stove, with no attachment added to make cooking possible, together with the left over bundles of firewood, was handed over to a friend who was managing a bar.

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よん&むー

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